FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI 091 *9 May 1984*

ARGENTINA

Peron's Return Expected To Bring Political Change B 1
Formal IMF Talks on New Standby Loan To Begin B 2
Railroad Workers Confirm Decision To Hold Strike B 3

BOLIVIA

General Strike Suspended; Banks Remain Closed C 1
CGTFB Statement Issued C 1
Bank Activities To Resume C 2
Army Commander Visits Military Garrisons C 2
Defense Minister Says Military Activities Normal C 2
Army Officers, Businessmen Said Sponsoring Plot C 3
President Siles Zuazo Meets With Mineworkers C 3
Rueda Pena Rejects Senate President's Remarks C 4
Lechin Scores COB Disunity, Indiscipline C 4

BRAZIL

Foreign Minister Meets Bolivian Counterpart D 1
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 4 May]
Opposition to Reagan's C.A. Policy Criticized D 1
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 1 May]
Reagan's C.A. Policy Seen Beset With Flaws D 3
[JORNAL DO BRASIL 6 May]
Government Sets New MVR Readjustment Level D 4
[JORNAL DO BRASIL 3 May]
Trade Director Announces Record High Exports D 4
[JORNAL DO BRASIL 4 May]

CHILE

Supreme Court Rejects Case Against President E 1
IMF Mission Studies More Flexible Accord E 1
Costa Rica Embassy Refugee Granted Safe-Conduct E 2
France, FRG Demand Expulsion of Nazi Leader E 2
'Historic' Socialists Elect Secretary General E 2
Violence Reported in Santiago, Other Cities E 3
1 Dead, 3 Wounded in Santiago E 3
Bomb Attacks in 3 Cities E 3
Correction to Political Parties Draft Bill E 3

COLOMBIA

Government Amends Drug Law, Heightens Crackdown F 1
Cocaine Labs Seized; Ring Leaders Detained F 1
Briefs: Cuban Hijacking Agreement; Soviet Commercial Proposal F 2

PERU

Shooting Incident Reported Near U.S. Embassy J 1
'Terrorists' Wounded J 1
Lima Denies Embassy Target J 1
Briefs: New Commerce Vice Minister; GDR University Loan J 1

URUGUAY

Interior Minister Comments on Plebiscite K 1

MEXICO

Navy Seizes U.S. Ships for Smuggling, Poaching M 1
Olympic Committee Chief Regrets Soviet Decision M 1
Relations To Be Expanded With Czechoslovakia M 2
Briefs: New Oil Deposit Discovered; Agreements With Poland; M 2
Undocumented Central Americans Deported

PANAMA

Illueca Deplores Violence, Convokes Cabinet [MATUTINO 8 May] N 1
Addresses Nation N 1
Holds News Conference N 3
Circuit Votes Tallied in Presidential Elections N 5
Composite Results N 5
Ardito Leading N 5
Ardito Holding Lead N 6
Electoral Tribunal Issues Vote Counting Decree N 6
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 8 May]
Counting Board To Renew Count N 7
Counting Resumes N 8
Official Discusses Process N 8
Board in Permanent Session N 8
Vote Count Delay, Confrontations Scored [LA PRENSA 8 May] N 9
Ardito Barletta Discusses Election, Results N 9
Rules Out Military Takeover N 9
Claims Victory N 10
Rejects Possibility of Fraud N 11
PRD Seeks 'Firm Defense' of Electoral Victory N 11
Authentic Panamenist Party Issues Communique [YA 8 May] N 12
Violence, Demonstrations Accompany Elections N 13
Clashes 'Organized' N 13
PRD 'Initiated' Incidents N 14
News Agency Criticized N 15
UNADE Organizes Caravan N 16
Opposition Blames One Another N 16
Security Cordon at Palace N 17
Demonstrations Called Off N 17
PAPO Protests Violence [YA 8 May] N 17
Soviet Nonparticipation in Olympics Noted N 18

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Foreign Ministry Expels Nicaraguan Official P 1
Offensive Publication Protested P 1
Gutierrez Discusses Relations With Nicaragua P 1
[Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT 28 Apr]

EL SALVADOR

Duarte Proclaims Himself President-Elect P 4
Requests U.S. Military Aid P 4
Urges Joining 'Social Pact' P 5
Ungo Terms Presidential Election 'Bloody Farce' P 6

HONDURAS

Nicaragua Downs Military Helicopter; 8 Die P 6
Suazo Calls Meeting P 7
General Comments on Incident P 7
Protest Sent to Nicaragua P 7
Paz Barnica Discusses Domestic, Foreign Issues P 8
Communist Leader Comments on Political Situation P 8
[EL HERALDO 3 May]

NICARAGUA

People's Army Downs Honduran Helicopter P 9
Foreign Ministry Communique P 9
D'Escoto News Conference P 9
Linked to U.S. Army P 10
Ortega Meets Debray, Requests French Aid P 10
Debray, Delegation Depart P 10
Ortega Addresses State Council Opening Session P 11
Reagan Said Launching 'Propaganda Campaign' P 12
Pastoral Easter Letter on Reconciliation [LA PRENSA 24 Apr] P 13
Alfonso Robelo Discusses ARDE Military Strategy P 18
[Buenos Aires GENTE 3 May]

CUBA

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez Speaks to MINREX Workers Q 1
Provincial Assembly Delegates Elected at Meeting Q 1
International CEMA Meeting on Solar Power Opens Q 1
UN Population Expert Salas Concludes Visit Q 1
Yugoslav Magazine Criticized for Views on Angola [BOHEMIA 13 Apr] Q 2
Havana Reports on U.S. Military Maneuvers Q 2
Costa Rica To Seek Contadora Mediation Q 3
U.S., FMLN Reactions to Salvadoran Election Q 3
U.S. Government Pleased Q 3
FMLN Critical Q 3
Reports on Recent Fighting in El Salvador Q 4
Guerrillas Attack San Miguel Q 4
FMLN Attacks El Paisnal Q 5
Fighting in Cabanas Q 5
Pre-Election Fighting Q 5
Clashes in Cuscatlan, Cabanas Q 6
Nicaragua Repulses Attack From Costa Rica Q 6
Reports Say 36 Contras Killed in Nicaragua Q 6
Party Leaders Arrested in Dominican Republic Q 7
Workers Schedule New Protest Drive in Chile Q 7
Colombian Communists, Rebels on Lara Murder Q 7
Colombian Authorities Arrest Drug Traffickers Q 8
Paraguayan Exiles Mark Stroessner Rise To Power Q 8

Blast Damages Pipeline; Teachers Strike in Peru Q 8
Socialist International Group To Meet in Peru Q 8
Saharans Claim 750 Moroccan Casualties in Battle Q 8

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Labor Secretary Says No Reason To Strike R 1
General Strike Set for 9 May R 1
Capital 'Militarized' R 1
PRD Group Proposes Candidates for 1986 Elections R 1
[LISTIN DIARIO 27 Apr]

CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS

Adams Says Castro May Seek Revenge Over Grenada S 1
Labor Union Calls for More Jobs, Housing S 1

GRENADA

Government Refuses To Return Equipment to Cuba S 2

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Steel Products Put on Restricted Import List S 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

ECUADOR

Febres Cordero Outlines Work Plan After Victory V 1

GUYANA

Union Leaders Attend International Conferences V 1

PERON'S RETURN EXPECTED TO BRING POLITICAL CHANGE

WA091040 Rome IPS in English 5 May 84

[By Ignacio Pena Salazar]

[Text] Buenos Aires, May 5 (IPS) -- Former Argentine President Isabel Peron's return to Argentina May 20 after years of exile in Spain is expected to alter Argentine politics, with inevitable repercussions on the Radical Party administration of President Raul Alfonsin.

Peron, the leader of the opposition Peronist Party, will meet with Aflonsin May 21 to discuss the most important issues of Argentina's domestic and foreign policy. The talks between Isabel, as she is commonly known, and Alfonsin will cover the foreign debt, salary policy, national and foreign investments, nuclear power projects, and the territori dispute with Chile over the Beagle Islands.

Peron's return was announced almost simultaneously by the Peronists' national council, headed by unionist Lorenzo Miguel, presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez, and a "liaison commission" which Peron created last December to coordinate party activities. The liaison commission is separate from the official party leadership, and its formation was seen as a reprimand by Peron of Peronist leaders after the party's defeat in the presidential election last year.

In fact, the telephone calls to announce Peron's return were made to the liaison commission and to President Alfonsin, and not to Miguel and other top Peronist leaders. Miguel admitted to reporters that he learned of the news from "several colleagues," and said that Isabel will assume full party leadership as soon as she returns.

Predictably, the government and Peronist leaders postponed a meeting planned for May 7, so that Peron can attend. The former president may be accompanied by hand-picked advisers, but she may attend alone, and it is not known whether she will accept proposals by Miguel and other party authorities set out in a document which they intended to present to Alfonsin on May 7.

Argentine political analysts agree that Isabel will be the rallying point for unifying the various Peronist sectors.

Aflonsin, meanwhile, is the only force of unity in his own party ranks, including the Radicals and allies from other groups. A meeting of the minds between Alfonsin and Peron would thus be a large step toward political unity in Argentina, and could also alter the composition of the administration, in which almost all posts are held by Radicals.

Alfonsin has reportedly pledged that what he discusses with Peron will reach beyond mere position-taking. The daily LA RAZON reported today that the president expects the dialogue with the Peronists to involve "ministries, secretaries, and national and provincial organizations."

Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli added, following a cabinet meeting yesterday, that the negotiations will not be limited to the administration's proposals but will give ample weight to suggestions by the opposition forces.

The $44 billion foreign debt, and how to renegotiate it, is one of the key items to be studied, he noted, since the issue must be decided "by a country and not by a government."

Another topic will be the dispute with Chile over the islands in the Beagle Channel. Troccoli said "we are moderately optimistic" on that matter and "are about to reach a solution which requires mutual concessions." The continuing conflict carries "a high cost in military maintenance," he noted, and is blocking accords between the two countries on other subjects.

Domestic problems to be discussed in the party negotiations include "income policy and development of a regional strategy to attract capital and industrialize our natural resources," Troccoli said.

On Argentina's nuclear program, the minister said Argentina is "ready to intensify technology in this field, which can be a very important development for peaceful ends, planned for all Latin America."

The administration may also propose that a permanent mechanism be established for information exchange and consultation among the political parties on major national problems.

FORMAL IMF TALKS ON NEW STANDBY LOAN TO BEGIN

WA091055 Rome IPS in English 7 May 84

[By Ignacio Pena Salazar]

[Text] Buenos Aires, May 7 (IPS) -- Argentina's formal talks with the International Monetary Fund will begin here tomorrow on a new standby loan.

Argentina needs an IMF accord to begin renegotiating payments on its foreign debts, estimated at about $44 billion. The main obstacle to a new accord centers on the budget deficit, which the IMF wants the government to cut to below ten percent of the gross domestic product.

An IMF mission, headed by Hernan Ferran of Spain, arrived in Buenos Aires over the weekend to begin talks with economic officials of President Raul Alfonsin's administration, in office since December.

Argentine economists and politicians are concerned over the slow pace of IMF negotiations, since most aspects of economic planning hinge on the foreign debt question. Although Alfonsin and other authorities are resistant to the IMF's usual conditions in return for credit, since they increase prices and decrease spending power, an IMF accord is crucial to the country's ability to pay the foreign debts.

The foreign debt issue has become a major political obstacle for the Argentine Government. Senator Antonio Berhongaray of the ruling Radical Party noted last weekend that "most of the draft laws are now paralyzed" because of the unresolved foreign debt question. Although the congressional session opened on May 1, Berhongaray pointed out that "we haven't even been able to start discussing the budget yet because the overall accounts have not been studied by IMF technicians."

Ruben Rabanal, a Radical Party legislator who heads the House of Deputies' Budget and Treasury Committee, said after a recent visit to the United States by congressional members of all parties that the two main groups, the Radicals and Peronists, "agree on the main issues."

The U.S. legislators they met with also understand "that we are talking about a political and not an economic problem, and a very delicate one," Rabanal said. But he noted that some of Argentina's creditors are not overly sympathetic to the "political" analysis of the country's foreign debts. "On one side are the banks which traditionally operate in international credit, who support political negotiations," Rabanal reported. "But those who entered the circuit at a time of serious cash flow shortages and are now facing hardships with their shareholders are making renegotiation more difficult," he noted.

The conflict between the Argentine Government's resistance to IMF conditions and the urgent need to renegotiate the debts is a serious one. The administration has pledged to protect wage-earners, a goal which is in almost direct conflict with the IMF's requirements.

The Dominican Republic adopted the IMF's austerity conditions, and protesters took to the streets in violent demonstrations to demand that the government repeal the measures, which brought large price increases in may basic goods and services.

Radical Party legislator Luis Leon condemned the IMF's "social irrationality" last weekend, and said that whether Argentina pays the foreign debts "will depend on the price."

"Because if the price is paid from outside at the cost of hunger within, the country will change its strategy for another which preserves stability," he said.

But Berhongaray noted that "we are aware that we can't pay the foreign debt, the country is bankrupt and in a state of a virtual suspension of payments."

The foreign debt problem is also a source of friction between the government and the opposition Peronists. Opposition legislators have demanded that Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun inform them on the debt negotiations. Grinspun has agreed to appear before Congress, and may do so this week in an effort to win Peronist support for the government's strategy, which economic officials see as essential.

But some of Grinspun's advisers fear that the Peronists will use the opportunity to question Grinspun on other aspects of economic policy. Some political analysts predict that the congressional questioning could cause a cabinet crisis and lead to Grinspun's dismissal. Alfonsin's first labor minister has already been replaced.

All observers agree that this will be a crucial week in defining the guidelines for Argentina's debt negotiations. Following the IMF talks, the Alfonsin administration will hold meetings with all other political sectors to try to garner support for the government position.

RAILROAD WORKERS CONFIRM DECISION TO HOLD STRIKE

PY090220 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0138 GMT 9 May 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 8 May (TELAM) -- The four railroad unions today confirmed their decision to hold a strike as of 0000 Wednesday to demand better salaries despite the labor minister's threat that if the strike is called they must be ready to confront the proper legal measures.

GENERAL STRIKE SUSPENDED; BANKS REMAIN CLOSED

PY072025 Paris AFP in Spanish 1711 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] La Paz, 7 May (AFP) -- Early this morning President Hernan Siles Zuazo managed to overcome one of the most serious labor conflicts upon suspension of the indefinite general strike by factory workers throughout the country. Moreover, the government position has been weakened with the aggravation of the conflict posed recently by the indefinite closing of the Bolivian Central Bank, whose employees refuse to put into effect recent economic measures issued by the government, arguing that the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] has rejected these measures.

While factory workers were returning to their work places after achieving a salary increase and job stability, private and state banks did not open their doors due to the 48-hour strike decreed by the bank employees.

In view of the desperate situation caused by the lack of money in the banks, last week the government ordered the police to intervene in the Bolivian Central Bank, an order repealed the day following the intervention. The Bank employees' strike, which for 2 weeks has been thwarting all kinds of transactions, will last until Tuesday, the day when the COB will make decision on the current status of the conflict. The COB's general meeting will respond to the government proposal to increase salaries by 100 percent, which was already rejected by some unions that demand a compensation similar to the increase in the cost of living, estimated at more than 250 percent.

The COB meeting will also reject the resignation presented by Juan Lechin Oquendo from his post as executive secretary of the COB due to the lack of union discipline of the factory workers, it has been learned.

While the political-social situation tends to change substantially, the Army High Command is making a tour through the different units in the interior to report on the Army situation in view of the latest national events.

Despite its repeated attempts, the congressional opposition group that demands the resignation of President Siles and the call for new elections, has not succeeded in gathering the congressmen for a special meeting to implement its plans.

CGTFB Statement Issued

PY081324 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] In a statement that it sent yesterday evening to Radio Panamericana, the General Confederation of Bolivian Factory Workers [CGTFB] states that the CGTFB Executive Board has decided to officially lift its indefinite strike and also to suspend the voluntary fast held by CGTFB leaders nationwide. The statement is signed by Felipe Tapia, Heriberto Mamani, Luis Aguilar and others.

The CGTFB also states that it keeps an unswerving stand regarding the opposition by factory workers to the hunger-producing economic measures and that it supports the rejection of the 100-percent increase proposed by the government. In addition, the CGTFB conveyed its appreciation and congratulations to its rank and file throughout Bolivia for their union discipline while the stoppage and the hung strike was being held.

Bank Activities To Resume

PY090218 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 84

[Excerpts] The La Paz Bank Workers Federation has demanded the resignation of Finance Minister Flavio Machicado Saravia as a result of the economic measures approved by the government of the Democratic and Popular Unity headed by Hernan Siles Zuazo on 12 April. This information was provided to Panamericana by Miguel Angel Quintanilla, one of the main leaders of the Federation of Workers of the Bolivian Central Bank, who disclosed that the demand was made in a cable sent by the Bank Workers Federation to the IMF. He added that the general strike in the bank sector will continue until the emergency economic plan proposed by the Bolivian Labor Federation is implemented. He also announced that the workers of the Bolivian Central Bank will resume partial activities to pay salaries in the private and public sector. The activities will be resumed tomorrow after the 48-hour strike carried out in protest of the police intervention in the building of the Bolivian Central Bank.

Miguel Angel Quintanilla also confirmed that the private banks currently have over 2 billion Bolivian pesos to pay salaries and other commitments. He said that it is not true that the private banks are short of money to take care of the needs of the people in general.

ARMY COMMANDER VISITS MILITARY GARRISONS

PY081723 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 May 84

[Excerpt] A visit by Army Commander in Chief Major General Simon Sejas Tordoya to the Oruro Military Garrison has been labeled as surprising. The report stated that Maj Gen Sejas flew to Oruro in a helicopter in order to discuss very delicate subjects with the Oruro Garrison officers. Several days after this event took place, Defense Minister Colonel Manuel Cardenas Mallo, retired, now talks about Maj Gen Sejas' visit saying that it was not surprising at all.

[Begin Cardenas Mallo recording] This is not a surprising action at all since it is keeping with the regulations and procedure in which Army matters are conducted. Temporarily the commanders [words indistinct] and in this case it was the Army commander in chief's turn. He has just returned from Beni Department and possibly this week he will be making two more visits. [end recording]

Once this point was clarified, the journalists focused on another delicate subject. It has been learned that there is uneasiness in the Armed Forces concerning salaries, salaries that have not bee paid on time. Cardenas Mallo replied to the question asked by the journalists, saying that uneasiness is obvious throughout Bolivia, not only in the Armed Forces.

[Begin Cardenas Mallo recording -- in progress] All the country is uneasy. This is not something new. All of us are concerned over the crisis that is affecting all social classes among...the Bolivian people. [end recording]

DEFENSE MINISTER SAYS MILITARY ACTIVITIES NORMAL

PY090129 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 84

[Excerpt] The national defense minister has indicated that military activities are absolutely normal.

Minister Cardenas Mallo made these remarks in answer to reports about uneasiness in military garrisons as a result of declarations recently made by retired officers.

[Begin Cardenas recording] The meetings held yesterday were regular, routine meetings. We do not have any problems [words indistinct] the economic problems affecting the Bolivian people. The crisis is affecting everyone. The Armed Forces are not an island and cannot remain unaffected bu such a serious situation. [end recording]

In reference to the open letter published by General (Guzman Frick), retired, Cardenas Mallo labeled it as a call for subversion.

ARMY OFFICERS, BUSINESSMEN SAID SPONSORING PLOT

PY082313 Paris AFP in Spanish 2049 GMT 8 May 84

[Excerpt] La Paz, 8 May (AFP) -- Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo has stated that in Bolivia at present there is a plot underway sponsored by a group in the private business sector and by military officers who have been removed from power. The Bolivian president issued these charges at the same time that Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora issued a statement describing the tense situation brought on by the labor strikes. He said: Bolivian democracy is on the razor's edge.

As evidence of the conspiracy, Siles Zuazo showed a cablegram that was sent by an army general who called for the military to rise against the Bolivian people. The cablegram alluded to the proclamation made by General Haroldo Pinto, the commander of the 5th Army Division, who charged that the government was instigating the activities of leftist gurrilla groups.

In answer to this charge, President Siles Zuazo noted that his government has the support of the Armed Forces that are commanded by military officers who were with those of us who were in exile.

PRESIDENT SILES ZUAZO MEETS WITH MINEWORKERS

PY081348 Paris AFP in Spanish 0316 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] La Paz, 7 May (AFP) -- There is no possibility of reviewing the hard corrective economic measures adopted by the government on 12 April 1984 by which the Bolivian peso has been devalued 300 percent, Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo stated here today in a dramatic meeting with mineworkers of Huanuni (288 km south of La Paz).

The mineworkers told the president that those measures have unleashed hunger in the fields and in the cities, and that the lack of tools in the mines is so great that they are forced to extract the mineral by scraping it with their hands. They also asked the president to annul the economic package he issued, by which the prices of gasoline, staples, and transport tariffs have been drastically increased.

In response, the president stated that it is impossible to grant a 300 percent wage increase, because if he adopts this measure, the benefits expected from the economic measures will be completely annulled. He added that his government hopes to obtain credits for several hundred millions of dollars to cope with the economic crisis that is adversely affecting Bolivia.

Huanuni leaders stated that they will extend the president's remarks to the mineworkers in order to decide whether they will go on with the general strike they have decreed together with the other nationalized mining districts. It has been recalled that a decisive general meeting of the Bolivian Labor Federation will be held tomorrow, during which the workers will decide whether an indefinite general strike will be held or whether they would rather sign some kind of agreement with Siles Zuazo's democratic regime.

RUEDA PENA REJECTS SENATE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

PY081846 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 May 84

[Excerpts] Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena has rejected remarks made in France by Senate President Julio Garret Ayllon. Reports coming from Paris state that Garret Ayllon had made remarks expressing concern over the course of the democratic process in the country, and posed the possibility of advancing the date or elections as a way out of the continuous aggravation of the situation in the country in all sectors.

Rueda Pena first of all expressed the government's surprise over the position of the elected Senate President, who is proposing unconstitutional paths abroad. The government has interpreted Garret Ayllon's remarks as an incitement to disrupt order in the country and to destabilize the current democratic process.

The information minister termed remarks made by the Senate president in France destabilizing. This is what he said:

[Begin Rueda Pena recording] We take his remarks as an open violation of the legal order in the country and also as an open incitement to destabilize the government and the democratic process. [end recording]

LECHIN SCORES COB DISUNITY, INDISCIPLINE

PY080312 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 May 84

[Excerpts] Juan Lechin Oquendo, main leader of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB], stated that he will not lead an organization that has no discipline in some of its sectors. This statement was made this afternoon.

Lechin Oquendo, in response to questions from the media, stated that a national COB assembly will definitely be held on Tuesday. For this purpose representatives of the labor sector from various parts of the country have already started to gather in La Paz according to Lechin Oquendo. These are Lechin Oquendo's statements to Panamericana.

[Begin Oquendo recording] If there is no discipline I do not want to be responsible for leading a general movement, since there will be no such general movement because everyone will be pulling his own way. [end recording]

In the leader's opinion it is necessary to impose unity within the workers' movement in order to confront the struggle for the wage earners' genuine aspirations.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS BOLIVIAN COUNTERPART

PY081915 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 May 84 p 6

[Text] After his meeting yesterday with Brazilian Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro at Itamaraty, new Bolivian Foreign Minister Gustavo Fernandez Saavedra said that several Latin American governments have extended their solidarity to the efforts of Siles Zuazo to redemocratize the nation. Venezuela and Colombia have already made their statements in this regard.

Saavedra hopes that economic cooperation between Latin American countries will help defeat the world crisis. He believes that this can be achieved through compensatory trade agreements and new trade options. He indicated, however that he does not have enough information on the gas accord that Presidents Banzer and Geisel had signed but is yet to be implemented.

Minister Guerreiro praised Saavedra during the dinner for 74 persons with which he feted him last night at Itamaraty. The host emphasized Fernandez Saavedra's extensive political experience and considerable cultural and professional expertise. He said that these qualities were obvious during the foreign minister's performance as Bolivian ambassador in Brazil until 12 April when he took over as Bolivian foreign minister.

Meanwhile Itamaraty officially confirmed yesterday that Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo will visit Brasilia on 14 and 15 May to expand further the already broad political and economic negotiations that the two governments have been carrying out ever since President Alfonsin took over at the end of last year.

The visit will also constitute some sort of compensation because so far the two governments have not managed to create conditions appropriate for a Figueiredo-Alfonsin meeting. Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro and his spokesman Bernardo Pericas have already said that the Brazilian Government plans to maintain with the new Argentine regime the same atmosphere of understanding that prevailed during the military rule of Videla, Viola, Galtieri and Bignone.

One of the main factors that prevented the meeting between the two presidents is the belief entrenched among the most conservative sectors of the Brazilian Government, that the new Argentine regime has embarked on an avenging crusade. Defending itself from these charges, the Alfonsin administration has explained that its goal is to punish equally all those who are quilty, that is, the military and police officers who perpetrated outrages, and the guerrillas.

OPPOSITION TO REAGAN'S C.A. POLICY CRITICIZED

PY041935 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 May 84 p 3

[Editorial: "The Dangerous Shortsightedness of the Opposition to Reagan"]

[Text] U.S. media, above all the "liberal" press, and Latin American leftist sectors have orchestrated an intense campaign against Ronald Reagan's policy in Central America, because they believe that such a policy may entangle the United States in a war in that region.

The Vietnam syndrome, which still affects large sectors of the U.S. public, is being used to undermine the Reagan administration's efforts to prevent both the imposition of a militarized totalitarian rule in Nicaragua and that country's intervention, in cooperation with Cuba and the USSR, in favor of Salvadoran leftist guerrillas. It should be noted that U.S. newspapers do not mention the provocative and increasing Cuban presence in Nicaragua, a country that, according to Moscow's mandates, should become a member of the system of Soviet satellites whose mission will be to encircle and isolate the United States on its southern flank.

Local communist leaders claim that their countries are so small that it would be ridiculous to expect that they might pose a threat to the United States. The U.S. media have gladly endorsed this argument. Yet, as Soviet bases, they are large enough and will allow the Soviet system (with its planes, submarines and warships) to become the neighbor of the United States. It is a process that is permanently expanding (the next target being El Salvador). However, the self-flagellating masochism of some U.S. political and press sectors maintains that Reagan, in his attempt to halt this aggressive process by indirect means, has adopted a policy that will drag the country into war. This assertion suggests that neither the Cubans nor the Nicaraguans are doing anything that could be considered even remotely similar to waging a war.

According to the Department of State, after the intervention in Grenada, the Cuban Government has sent up to 5,000 Army veterans to help the Sandinist troops. At the beginning, right after the Sandinist victory, Cuban advisers were concentrated in training camps and at the Defense Ministry. In recent weeks they have been seen dressed in Nicaraguan uniforms and armed with machineguns along the Honduran border. There are 5,000 to 6,000 Cuban civilian advisers under the direction of Cuban Ambassador Julian Lopez Diaz, a high-ranking official of the Department of the Americas of the Cuban Central Committee. Lopez headed the center of clandestine operarions in San Jose in 1978-79. Now he is in charge of the political management of the FSLN. [Sandinist national Liberation Front] which leads Marxist guerrilla groups in El Salvador and Guatamala. Former security department official Miguel Bolanos Hunter, who escaped to freedom in Costa Rica, revealed in September 1983 that the General Directorate of State Security (DGSE) has 3,000 officials headed by 400 Cubans, 70 Soviets, 50 GDR citizens, and 20 Bulgarians.

The DGSE is structured on the Cuban (DGI) [General Directorate of Intelligence] and the Soviet (KGB) models. In addition to being the secret service of the Sandinist Nicaraguan Government, the DGSE organizes the Revolutionary Defense Commissions and recruits gangs that violently attack "Contras," journalists, clergymen, and prominent political opponents. Further more, there are approximately 2,500 Cuban professors and medical assistants in Nicaragua. About last Christmas, these people were replaced by younger "internationalists" trained in guerrilla warfare.

Between 1981 and 1982, ships unloaded 6,000 tons of weapons in Nicaragua. This volume increased to 11,000 tons in 1983. These weapons are provided by the USSR, Bulgaria, the GDR, and the DPRK. Nicaragua also receives light weapons from Cuba and Libya. Five airports with 3,500-meter runways that can be used by Soviet military jets and reconnaissance planes that can be converted into medium-range bombers, are being constructed. These planes can reach U.S. territory. A part of the weapons received from practically all the Soviet bloc are transferred to El Salvador.

What policy do Walter Mondale, THE NEW YORK TIMES, and THE WASHINGTON POST propose to eliminate with these potentially belligerent threats, thanks to which Nicaragua has already been occupied and El Salvador is being occupied? Talks with the Contadora group? But these have yielded no results yet. Diplomatic negotiations? But Reagan is constantly carrying them out through his special envoys Richard Stone and Harry Schlaudeman, and the Henry Kissinger commission. Economic aid? The Kissinger commission proposed economic and military aid totaling $8 billion, but Congress approved less than $80 million for El Salvador. Could it be that the United States is being compelled by pressure groups to look on passively, as in the cases of Angola and Ethiopia, while communism takes over Central America, just to prevent these same groups from accusing it of conducting a policy that could lead to war?

REAGAN'S C.A. POLICY SEEN BESET WITH FLAWS

PY071915 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 6 May 84 p 10

[Editorial: "Backfire"]

[Text] The CIA-financed "secret war" to destabilize Nicaragua's Sandinist government is no longer secret, and it is not yielding good results. In fact, the attack by the troops of Eden Pastora on the small Nicaraguan port of San Juan del Norte proved a disaster somewhat reminiscent of the Bay of Pigs many years ago.

Judging by the evidence, President Reagan's Central American policy continues to reveal strategic and operational flaws that are deplorable. There can be different opinions about the military pressure exerted by the "contras" as a means of countering Nicaragua's participation in the Salvadoran civil war. The latest episodes of that pressure, however, caused angry reactions in the U.S. Congress and protests from Washington's allies.

Once more, we can attest to "secret" actions that go beyond the limits of wisdom and political responsibility. Unfortunately, it is obvious that the CIA has resolved to assume effective control over the military campaign against Managua and, consequently, it has taken some disastrous steps.

The forces of ARDE (Democratic Revolutionary Alliance), which operate out of Costa Rica under the command of Eden Pastora, were first put under pressure to join the FDN (Nicaraguan Democratic Front), which operates out of Honduras and has former Somoza men in its ranks. As is known, Pastora refused to take that course, and did not approve of the CIA plan to invade the small Nicaraguan port and then proclaim an independent state. According to various reports, however, Pastora had no say in the invasion plan, the result of which is well known: ARDE held the port of San Juan del Norte for 5 days, at the end of which the Sandinists retook it, while the men of Pastora left behind considerable quantities of U.S.-made material. Accusations then followed that, in order to continue operating in the border zone, ARDE men are bribing Costa Rican officials with money provided by the CIA.

This is not the way to win a "secret war," nor is it the way to win support in Central America or Nicaragua for the propositions that the United States defends.

GOVERNMENT SETS NEW MVR READJUSTMENT LEVEL

PY042137 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 3 May 84 p 20

[Text] Brasilia -- Planalto Palace promulgated yesterday a presidential decree, whereby new values are given to the so-called Major Reference Value (MVR) for 1984. After this decree, the MVR in Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais, Goias, and Federal District goes from its current value of 28,294.80 cruzeiros to 48,751.90.

The MVR replaces the minimum salary for the correction of fines imposed by the Federal Government. The MVR is also used as a yardstick to establish the size of private banks in order to obligate them to grant agricultural credits, as well as to establish the volume of legal deposits placed in the Central Bank by the commercial banks.

The MVR is also important to operations of the central bank in lending and borrowing with financial institutions, operations in which the MVR is applied following agricultural credit rules. Since last year, the MVR is being used ro readjust the price of passports.

Despite the adoption of a single minimum salary, setting its value at 97,176 cruzeiros around the country, the MVR still will continue to have five different values. Its lowest value is 34,446.40 cruzeiros, and its highest value is the one applying in Rio de Janeiro. Under the MVR readjustment system, a fine corresponding to 50 percent of the minimum salary is equal to 50 percent of the MVR, that is, 24,376 cruzeiros in Rio de Janeiro.

TRADE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES RECORD HIGH EXPORTS

PY052330 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 4 May 84 p 1

[Text] Brazilian exports broke the record high in April this year by reaching $2,134,000,000. Since imports barely amounted to $1,073,000,000, the country also achieved a record monthly trade surplus of $1,061,000,000. Thus, this year's surplus amounts to $3.5 billion.

Carlos Viacava, director of the Foreign Trade Department of the Banco de Brasil (CACEX), yesterday made these announcements and stated that the $9-billion trade surplus, this year's target, is practically assured. The exports which grew most in April were those of unrefined soybean oil, a commodity which is currently short in the local market.

SUPREME COURT REJECTS CASE AGAINST PRESIDENT

PY081320 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] The Supreme Court has rejected the charges slandering the president that were submitted by a group of lawyers. The decision that has been handed down by the country's highest court refers to a brief that had been submitted by 24 lawyers who oppose the government. The brief refers to plots of land that have been purchased by the chief of state in the Melocoton sector, which is located close to San Jose de Maipo.

The political implications and the intention of harming the image of the chief of state were categorically rejected by the Supreme Court. Thus, by a unanimous vote, the plenum of the country's highest court overruled the brief. The text of the decision states: The request is hereby overruled. This file is to be submitted to the Court of Appeals so a decision can be handed down regarding its legal status.

IMF MISSION STUDIES MORE FLEXIBLE ACCORD

WA091140 Rome IPS in English 7 May 84

[Text] Santiago, May 7 (IPS) -- An International Monetary Fund mission began talks here today with Chilean Treasury Minister Luis Escobar Cerda and other economic officials to study Chile's request that the IMF soften conditions in return for credit. Specifically, Chile wants the IMF to loosen a budget deficit goal of 4.5 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), set in a previous accord signed by former Treasury Minister Carlos Caceres.

Economist Jan Van Houten, who heads the four-member IMF mission now in Santiago, would not comment on whether the IMF will accept the Chilean request, proposed by Escobar and Economy Minister Modesto Collados. Escobar and Collados were appointed just last month by General Augusto Pinochet, who ordered them to give top priority to cutting unemployment, now running at 30 percent of the 3.7 million work force, according to unofficial estimates.

Chilean officials insist that the 4.5 percent budget deficit goal would prevent them from spending government funds to cut unemployment, which is a powerful source of public discontent with the 10-year-old military government.

Van Houten said his mission will stay in Santiago one week, and will then report to IMF directors so that they can take a decision on the budget deficit question.

Escobar feels that cutting unemployment is more important than meeting the IMF's anti-inflationary demands. But an IMF loan of $780 million to pay interest on Chile's foreign debts and disbursement of $47 million under a standby loan agreed in January 1983 hinge on the IMF's decision. Chile's foreign debt is estimated unofficially at more than $22 billion.

Caceres and former Economy Minister Andres Passicot were staunch supporters of the monetarist economic policy followed in Chile since 1974. That policy is widely blamed for Chile's severe economic problems, and Pinochet replaced the former ministers with successors which he described as more pragmatic and less tied to the monetarist strategy. Escobar and Collados already have announced a three-year plan to increase employment.

Economic officials describe the IMF talks this week as "routine" and say they are aimed primarily at putting IMF representatives in touch with the new authorities. The IMF mission will look at figures on Chile's economy, which saw negative growth of 14.5 in the GDP in 1982 and fell another one percent in 1983. A larger IMF delegation will visit Chile in July for a final look at the government's economic program for the second half of 1984.

COSTA RICA EMBASSY REFUGEE GRANTED SAFE-CONDUCT

PY090101 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has reported that President Pinochet has granted a safe-conduct to activist Cecilia Suarez, who took refuge at the Costa Rican Embassy on 9 March. Del Valle added that he had previously submitted Cecilia Suarez' judicial and police records to the head of state [words indistinct] second military court.

The foreign minister said that in the next 24 hours he will ask the interior minister to issue the safe-conduct to Cecilia Suarez, the daughter of former Popular Unity Minister Suarez. He added that the activist might leave Chile this week.

FRANCE, FRG DEMAND EXPULSION OF NAZI LEADER

PY081338 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0021 GMT 8 May 84

[Excerpt] Santiago, 7 May (EFE) -- The West German and French ambassadors today visited the Foreign Ministry to insist upon their requests to the Chilean Government for the expulsion of Nazi leader Walter Rauff.

Ambassadors Hermann Holtzheimer of the FRG and Leon Bouvier of France went to the Foreign Ministry in compliance with an agreement with the European Parliament in this regard, they stated. The ambassadors added that their governments have requested the expulsion of Rauff from Chile since an action for extradition has been previously ruled in Rauff's favor.

'HISTORIC' SOCIALISTS ELECT SECRETARY GENERAL

PY072308 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1355 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 7 May (EFE) -- The "Historic Sector" of the Chilean Socialist Party today ended a meeting of its leaders and elected Manuel Mandujano as its secretary general.

The "Historic Sector" of the Socialist Party separated itself last week from the structures of the Socialist Party, which is a member of the Democratic Alliance [AD] Multiparty Group, because it refused to accept the election of Carlos Briones, a former minister during the Salvador Allende administration, as the new secretary general.

At present there are eight Chilean socialist groups that are grouped in three socialist parties. They are the so-called "Hard Line," which is a member of the People's Democratic Movement [MDP] opposition group; the branch that is a member of the AD; and the "Historic" Sector, which has expressed its wish to continue within the AD [as received].

The different socialist groups are headed by Manuel Almeyda (Socialist Orthodox sector), Manuel Mandujano ("Historic Sector" socialist group), and Carlos Briones (socialist sector member of the AD).

VIOLENCE REPORTED IN SANTIAGO, OTHER CITIES

1 Dead, 3 Wounded in Santiago

PY050245 Paris AFP in Spanish 0218 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 4 May (AFP) -- There was a clash tonight between the police and poeple who tried to attack a supermarket in the district of Pudahuel in the Chilean capital. The clash resulted in one person killed and two wounded, including a policeman.

The semiofficial agency ORBE reported that presumably one of the persons arrived dead at Clinic No 3 of the Public Health Department and that Jose Alvarez Mondaca, a noncommissioned officer of the Carabineros, the militarized police, and another unidentified person are seriously wounded. The report indicates that the noncommissioned officer was wounded in the head when, together with other uniformed police, he tried to stop a group of persons from attacking a supermarket in the heavily inhabited district on the outskirts of Santiago.

The national state television channel has reported that the attack was led by a commando of seven masked persons and that an operation is taking place in that district with the participation of the police force and security services.

Bomb Attacks in 3 Cities

PY081342 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] More than a dozen attacks with explosives were perpetrated last night in Santiago, Valparaiso, and Vina del Mar. The attacks caused outages in street lighting systems, in electrical systems for buildings, and in the telephone system, but there were no victims.

The escalation of terrorism, which was perfectly synchronized, also provoked the population's indignation, especially in the low income neighborhoods of this capital.

More than eight devices exploded at different points throughout the city. Two bank agencies, the newspaper EL MERCURIO, and several street light posts were hit with explosive devices. The devices exploded at General Velasquez and Ecuador Streets, (Bahia) Alegre and Las Condes Avenue, Los Leones Street, Grecia Avenue, and Vicuna Mackenna Avenue, among others.

Six other devices exploded in Valparaiso and Vina del Mar. The electrical and telephone systems were affected, provoking a blackout and the interruption of telephone service.

CORRECTION TO POLITICAL PARTIES DRAFT BILL

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Political Parties Draft Bill Summarized," published in the 4 May Latin America DAILY REPORT, page E 4, paragraphs nine and ten:

Until the Senate has been installed, it will fall upon the government junta to approve the appointment or removal of the director of the Electoral Service. This is established in the first temporary measure included in the political parties bill.

The second temporary article establishes that readjustments in the number of members required to establish a political party will be applied as of the first general popular census to be carried out in 1990. (supplying ommitted passages)

GOVERNMENT AMENDS DRUG LAW, HEIGHTENS CRACKDOWN

PA081807 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Bogota -- The national government has decided to make substantial changes in the National Drug Statute, Decree No 1188 of 1964, in order to make the battle against drug trafficking [words indistinct] severe.

On the basis of Article 121 of the Constitution, which was used to establish the state of siege decreed throughout the country, President Belisario Betancur announced the new legal provisions expanding Legislative Decree No 1038 issued early on Tuesday, a few hours after the murder of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla. Through this decree the government ordered an offensive against all organizations involved in drug trafficking.

According to the new legal provisions, which double prison terms for those found guilty of violating the National Drug Statute, military judges have been given the power to impound all property owned by drug traffickers.

In like fashion, Decree No 1060 issued last night establishes fines for drug traffickers of up to 10 million pesos and economic sanctions based on the value of real estate property where drugs or any other substance which causes physical or psychic dependence are stored, [word indistinct], processed, or distributed.

Similarly, the new measures state that all aircraft seized before and after last night's decree will be taken to a military base to be handled by the National Defense Ministry.

In conclusion, the decree, which amended the National Drug Statute, states that any person charged with drug trafficking who cooperates with the authorities in the arrest of others involved in such trafficking will receive a reduction in the sentence received for violating the Drug Statute.

COCAINE LABS SEIZED; RING LEADERS DETAINED

PA081925 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Tunja -- Authorities have confirmed that the secret police have discovered eight cocaine-processing laboratories in recent hours in Miraflores Corregimiento, Boyaca Department.

According to the General Police Directorate, F-2 secret police units discovered the cocaine-processing laboratories on two properties located near this town. The laboratories had the capacity to prepare 10,000 kg of the drug per month.

It has also been learned that 4 tons of coca leaves were seized, along with 1,500 gallons of gasoline, 30 bundles of sodium carbonate, 40 gallons of [word indistinct], 30 5-gallon containers of sulfuric acid, and other elements used in the processing of cocaine.

According to the investigations, no one was detained in connection with the operations there or the recent measures adopted by the government to fight drug trafficking. It has been learned that the owners of those laboratories abandoned them, and their whereabouts are unknown.

Meanwhile, in Bogota, General Francisco Hernando Diaz San Miguel, commander of the 3d Division, today announced at the Narino Palace that three leading drug traffickers in Colombia were detained in the last few hours during several raids conducted in Cali. The high-ranking military man abstained from disclosing the names of those involved, saying only that the public will learn their names in due time. For now, he said, we will abstain from disclosing their names because we are in the initial stage of the investigation. As soon as they are turned over to the military judge, as the law establishes, everyone will know who they are.

According to the general, actions by the military and the national antinarcotics police will be stepped up. Concerning the operations launched so far, he said they have had satisfactory results.

BRIEFS

CUBAN HIJACKING AGREEMENT -- Carlos Alban and Raul Roa, Colombian and Cuban ambassadors to the United Nations, respectively, today decided to simultaneously publish in Bogota and Havana a communique reporting on the agreement signed by the two countries to prosecute hijackers. The agreement was signed in 1964 and renewed in 1968. The communique has just been published by the Colombian Foreign Ministry. [Summary] [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 May 84 PA]

SOVIET COMMERCIAL PROPOSAL -- Bogota -- The Soviet Union has offered the Colombian Government its participation in construction of four hydroelectric energy plants, equipment and systems for oil exploitation, and the construction of national railroad facilities. A protocol to a commercial agreement was issued during a meeting of the Colombian-Soviet mixed commission. In addition, the two countries signed another commercial agreement on the exchange of Colombian products for Soviet machinery and equipment in the initial annual amount of $30 million. [Summary] [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 May 84 PA]

SHOOTING INCIDENT REPORTED NEAR U.S. EMBASSY

'Terrorists' Wounded

PY072310 Paris AFP in Spanish 1522 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpts] Lima, 7 May (AFP) -- It was reported that two alleged terrorists were wounded last night in Lima when they attacked two policemen who were on duty at the U.S. Embassy. The two terrorists, who were hospitalized after they were wounded, were armed with two .44 caliber pistols, rubber bullets and submachineguns. The identity of the terrorists is not known.

Lima Denies Embassy Target

PY081438 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Contrary to a report published by a Lima daily, no attack whatsoever has been perpetrated against the home of the U.S. ambassador. Near the ambassador's home the police ordered a car that was occupied by persons regarded as suspects to stop. Disobeying the orders the car took off and a shootout ensued. The persons inside the car were wounded. One of them was detained in the place where the incident took place and the other one was detained at block No 10 on Arequipa Avenue.

BRIEFS

NEW COMMERCE VICE MINISTER -- Percy Vargas Alvarez has been appointed Peruvian commerce vice minister. [Summary] [Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0551 GMT 3 Apr 84 PY]

GDR UNIVERSITY LOAN -- Yesterday Arthur Hoetige, ambassador of the GDR to Peru, disclosed that his government will grant the Peruvian university system a $10 million loan for the establishment of laboratories for research purposes in 25 Peruvian universities. [Summary] [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 19 Mar 84 p 10 PY]

INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON PLEBISCITE

PY071947 Paris AFP in Spanish 1530 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] Salto, Uruguay, 6 May (AFP) -- Speaking on behalf of the Armed Forces, Interior Minister General Julio Cesar Rapela, retired, has warned that under no circumstances are they willing to give up their principles and allow the reinstatement of the situation which prompted their intervention in 1973. During the swearing-in ceremony of the new police chief of Salto, 498 km northwest of Montevideo, Gen Rapela indicated that the Armed Forces will submit a new political plan for the consideration of the political parties. He added that in this plan the Armed Forces have reviewed and adjusted their position on the basis of proposals received. He explained that alternate solutions will be accepted, provided they are good and advantageous to the Armed Forces as well, stressing that the Armed Forces are not stubborn. However, under no circumstances are they willing to give up their principles and go back to the situation prevailing in 1972.

Discussing the current political situation in Uruguay, Rapela said that it is fraught with options and uncertainties, as the people have obviously reached a concensus about what is going on and about the Armed Forces' proposal.

As to the presidential elections which will launch the nation's return to institutional order, Rapela said that interference will be overcome. Gen Rapela emphasized that the government will take the steps necessary for holding elections on 25 November this year.

The new political plan of the Armed Forces was branded infeasible by the Blanco Party, led by the banned and wanted Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, which today began on its own to collect signatures for a plebiscite designed to abrogate Institutional Act No 4 proscribing persons and parties. Some time ago the Armed Forces had pointed out that no such plebiscite was feasible, and the other rehabilitated political parties, that is, the Colorado Party and the Civic Union, as well as the banned left-wing Broad Front, all members of the Interparty Group, had not extended their support to the project of the Blanco Party.

Gen Rapela, discussing recent closures of news media and the rumors that some of the restrictions may be lifted, said that none of the bans on the news media will be lifted.

As to the death of Dr Vladimir Roslik after he had been arrested by military personnel in the course of an antisubversive operation conducted in San Javier, Rapela said that all the information available had been released, and that the result of the three post-mortems performed on Roslik's body would be disclosed soon.

The minister said that the military court was investigating recent attacks in Montevideo against the residence of the director of the banned left-wing newspaper CINCO DIAS and against the buildings of several commercial firms which had advertised in the newspaper, as well as the alleged kidnapping of a person who had chanced to witness ultrarightist groups scattering leaflets.

Asked whether Uruguay will complain to Argentina for the welcome which the latter country extended to Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, the interior minister said that it will not. We are not going to take any steps because as a sovereign country, Argentina is entitled to do as it pleases, Rapela stressed. Naturally, we do not find it pleasant to have Argentina paying as much attention as it does to someone who is wanted by our military courts, Rapela said. He concluded by emphasizing, however, that Argentina has the right to do so if it wishes.

NAVY SEIZES U.S. SHIPS FOR SMUGGLING, POACHING

FL080144 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0033 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Mexico City, 7 May (NOTIMEX) -- The General Command of the Mexican Navy today reported that the Navy captured three U.S. vessels, which were surprised while carrying out illegal activities in Mexican waters this month.

The report said that the first boat, called the Conquistador, with no visible registration, was captured near Punta Nicoles, north of Cozumel, Quintana Roo, in the Mexican Caribbean Sea, as it was transporting 548 bundles of marijuana, each weighing 48 kilos. It stated that the vessel was towed in and is in the custody of the Federal Judicial Police.

Meanwhile, the Navy coast guard vessel Jose Asueta detained two U.S. vessels that were surprised with their nets in the water off the coast of Tamaulipas (in the Gulf of Mexico). About 1,000 kg of shrimp were found in the holds of the two ships. The shrimp were confiscated and the crews of the fishing boats were taken to Tampico and turned over to the appropriate authorities.

OLYMPIC COMMITTEE CHIEF REGRETS SOVIET DECISION

FL090128 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1949 GMT 8 May 84

[By Antonio Mora Hurtado, special NOTIMEX correspondent]

[Text] Paris, 8 May (NOTIMEX) -- Mario Vazquez Rana, president of the Mexican Olympic Committee, today said the Soviet decision not to participate in the Olympic games in Los Angeles was regrettable for the future of the Olympic movement. Vazquez Rana, who with Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (COI), attended the opening of the 48th Congress of the International Association of Sports Journalists (AIPS), expressed his profound sadness about the Soviet attitude, pointing out that this would noticeably affect the world Olympic movement.

In his capacity as president of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ACNO), Mario Vasquez Rana told NOTIMEX that it would be nearly impossible to get the sports authorities in the Soviet Union to reconsider their position and attend the games in Los Angeles. He added that Samaranch has asked him to take advantage of the good relations between ACNO and the Soviet Olympic Committee and intervene directly on this matter to get the Soviets to participate in the Olympic games. Vazquez Rana said that they would fly to Moscow this weekend to try to allay the Soviet Olympic Committee's anxieties about the lack of security for Soviet athletes.

Vazquez Rana said that the organizing committee for the Los Angeles games has pledged to take all necessary security measures to safeguard athletes from all over the world.

He added: Nevertheless, we will do everything possible to prevent this action, which will harm the Olympic movement, and we will try to convince the Soviet Union and the countries that share its views to reconsider and go to Los Angeles.

The president of ACNO announced that after visiting Moscow, he would go to the GDR and on 17 May to Bulgaria, on 19 May to Romania, on 21 May to Hungary, on 23 May to Czechoslovakia, on 25 May to Poland, and 1 day later, he would meet with the members of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Continuing with the mission given to him by Juan Samaranch, Vazquez Rana will return to Paris on 29 May. On 2 June, he will travel to Mexico City and, from there, he will go to Los Angeles to be with the organizers of the games during 3-5 June. Finally, he plans to visit Cuba on 7 June to talk with that country's Olympic committee.

Vazquez Rana, now considered the great conciliator in the differences between the USSR and the organizers of the Los Angeles games, did not discount the possibility that the Soviets would reverse their decision not to participate in the next Olympic games.

RELATIONS TO BE EXPANDED WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

FL042050 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1744 GMT 4 May 84

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Czechoslovakia's new ambassador to Mexico, Jindrick Tucek, has said that the two countries will increase their economic and trade relations. At a press conference for the national media, Tucek said that both nations are open to expanding their political, economic, and cultural relations. He added that Czechoslovakia is ready to offer Mexico heavy machinery, which it has traditionally produced.

Tucek said that when he presented his credentials to President Miguel de la Madrid, they discussed bilateral relations and world issues such as peace, which join the two countries.

Tucek said that from 9 to 18 November a socialist European and Cuban exhibition would be held at Mexico City's City of Sports [Ciudad de los Deportes]. Czechoslovakia would be taking part in it but he did not specify the theme of the exhibition.

BRIEFS

NEW OIL DEPOSIT DISCOVERED -- Mexico City, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- PEMEX director Mario Ramon Beteta has confirmed the discovery of a high quality, 42 grade API [American Petroleum Institute] light oil deposit in the State of Tabasco. Beteta said the deposit will produce 6,000 barrels of light oil and 15 million cubic feet of gas daily. The deposit is located 40 km north of Villahermosa, capital of the state of Tabasco (in southeastern Mexico). Beteta visited the site with PEMEX technicians and Tabasco Governor Enrique Gonzalez Pedrero. The site is called Caparroso-Sen and extends over an area of 300 square km. [Text] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0400 GMT 5 May 84 FL]

AGREEMENTS WITH POLAND -- Hector Hernandez, secretary of commerce and industrial development, and Tadeusz Nestorowicz, Polish foreign trade minister, have signed the final document of the 4th meeting of the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation between Mexico and Poland. They also signed a protocol to the trade agreement allowing each country to achieve a minimum exchange of $90 million between 1984 and 1986. [Summary] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Apr 84 p 5 A PA]

UNDOCUMENTED CENTRAL AMERICANS DEPORTED -- Tapachula, Chiapas, 11 Apr -- Between 80 and 100 undocumented Central Americans are deported every day through southern Mexico, it has been learned. Most of these people reportedly want to enter the United States illegally. According to one immigration official, the number of Central American agricultural workers who enter Mexico to work in the fields has been considerably reduced, and a campaign has been established to keep Central American women from being contracted to work in the area's centers of vice. [Summary] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Apr 84 p 4 A PA]

ILLUECA DEPLORES VIOLENCE, CONVOKES CABINET

PA081452 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 8 May 84 p 1 A

[Text] Panamanian President Jorge E. Illueca last night expressed to one of our reporters his deep concern over the violent death of a humble Panamanian during the riots outside the Justo Arosemena Legislative Palace, which also left a considerable toll of wounded. President Illueca said: "My government's top priority is to maintain national peace and harmony, above all when the electoral process has taken place in an exemplary way, imbued with civic spirit and order." He has convoked a Cabinet Council today, at 0900 in the Presidential Palace, to review the country's current situation.

Addresses Nation

PA082105 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 May 84

[Speech delivered by President Jorge Illueca at the Presidential Palace in Panama City -- live]

[Text] I am addressing my countrymen today to refer to the national situation that has resulted from the elections held on Sunday, 6 May. In the first place, I must reiterate the national government's appreciation of the Panamanian people and its recognition of their demonstration of civic behavior during the elections. It has been a great example, and all of us, as Panamanians, have the duty to follow this example by making the elections bring a climate of peace, concord, and understanding to the state.

Incidents of singular gravity took place yesterday. Confrontations took place, in the course of which a Panamanian citizen was killed and several dozen others were wounded. I wish to say that we regret these incidents, which should have never occurred among Panamanians, among brothers. We also wish to express our sincere sorrow to the relatives of the citizen who died, and of those who were injured, asking them to reflect, so we may all help to restore the climate of peace and understanding that should exist among Panamanians.

As a result of this situation, the Cabinet Council met today. A thorough, careful, and detailed examination of the situation was conducted to determine the causes of the violence and to prevent a repetition of this kind of action, which affects our national image, left in such good standing after Sunday's election. I must inform the citizens that, interpreting the cabinet's feelings, I have asked the government and justice minister to pursue the investigation of this case through the attorney general's office, so that those who prove to be responsible for these actions can be tried and punished appropriately.

I also wish to remind all Panamanians, all citizens, of (?their) duty to contribute to this peace. They must refrain from carrying weapons or any other instrument that could be used in attacks to disrupt social peace.

In an assessment of the situation at the Cabinet Council, it was determined that one of the causes of the expectation, impatience, and, to a certain extent, exasperation is the lack of information about the results of the elections.

In this regard, one of the first measures that we have decided to adopt is to ask the Electoral Tribunal, and very specifically the National Vote Counting Board, to speed up the vote counting process and to release clear information to the national and international public on the electoral results. We believe that the contents of those polls are a heritage belonging to the Panamanian people, who are entitled to know what the popular will was. Therefore, in accordance with this view held by the Cabinet Council, we have asked the National Vote Counting Board to read the 40 tallysheets prepared in the electoral circuits in order to learn the results of the election. In this way, every citizen, man or woman, every Panamanian regardless of age, sector, or ideology, will learn how the voting went. Naturally, it must be made clear that the data in the tally sheets will merely be read. Later, the procedure established in the electoral code will be followed, in order to establish whether each circuit's tallysheet meets all legal formalities, so as to reach the stage of the final proclamation. Whatever is written in the tally sheets, as they currently stand, must be read to the citizens objectively and without comment of any sort. We believe that in this way, moods will be calmed and the peace that we regard as essential can be restored.

My appeal to prudence, good sense, wisdom, and the spirit of understanding and concord that must prevail among Panamanians is mainly aimed at the directors of the various political parties and the candidates for president, vice president, and legislator. Today it is mainly aimed at the directorates of the various political parties and at the two presidential candidates who garnered the most votes: Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta and Dr Arnulfo Arias. We have appealed to both, and now we are making this appeal public, so that the political parties will cooperate completely in preserving order. We wish to scrupulously respect the rights of all citizens and fundamental freedoms, but in any civilized society these rights and freedoms must be exercised without affecting the rights of others and without either violating the public order or the integrity of individuals. I therefore beg both parties and their candidates to demonstrate the greatest prudence in avoiding confrontations.

The national government respects the legal structure under which we live and in no way wishes to affect civic rights or to do anything that might be interpreted as depriving the citizens of those rights. But the national government cannot allow our streets to be closed. Neither does the government feel that it furthers the cause of any one party or citizen if the streets leading to the electoral institutions are blocked or if the entrances, staircases, or halls at those institutions, which must work very hard right now, are in any way made the scene of disturbances. For this reason, those parties interested in seeing this democratic process bear its fruits and in witnessing the beginning of a new stage of progress in our country must cooperate with us.

This is very important, for otherwise it would be necessary to take certain measures. I repeat, these measures would not affect the citizens' rights. However, the Constitution establishes that it is the state's duty to see that public order is not disturbed, that traffic is not interrupted, and that the normal development of economic activities is in no way impeded.

We are also asking the church and the Panamanian Episcopal Conference, which has previously addressed the country through its pastoral letters, to give us their cooperation, so that the church can help to create a sensible climate, characterized by reciprocal respect.

To conclude, I would like to add that we have also asked the National Vote Counting Board to remain in permanent session so that it can finish its work and release the results. I say this with the utmost respect for the electoral system.

We want it clearly understood that the executive branch respects the electoral system and is committed to heeding its decisions.

I would also like to say that the great effort made in the form of the national budget contributions that made these elections possible, and the spiritual and civic contribution made by the Panamanian people require that we in the executive branch, those of us charged with the responsibility of preserving public order, make these efforts.

We have also asked the National Defense Forces to keep the streets open, to keep the areas of access to the electoral offices open, urging them to do so with their characteristic professionalism and with the appropriate prudence and restraint. The security of the state demands that the results obtained at the polls be respected, and under no circumstances should the tallysheets be exposed to any kind of damage. For this reason I have talked with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the National Defense Forces, to ensure that the Defense Forces carry out their function with the balance and respect required by the situation that we face. Under no circumstances should this action by the Defense Forces be viewed as an effort to keep the citizens from exercising their rights, for this is not the case. As you know, the electoral offices include representatives of all of the parties, without distinction. We will not only guarantee access to official party representatives; out of respect for the electoral system, we will also guarantee orderly and balanced access to sympathizers of those parties, as long as they respect our social order, and as long as normality is in no way disrupted and the legal system is preserved.

Finally, I would like to stress the importance that the cabinet and the executive branch accord to the media. We realize their extraordinary importance and their influence in helping to preserve order, normalcy, and balance. This is why we would like to beg them to cooperate with the electoral system and with the authorities of the executive and legislative branches. We urge them not to publish things that might promote differences or that might not be in accordance with the electoral facts. In this regard we will also ask the electoral offices -- and I understand that they are indeed doing so -- to release bulletins on any development that might be of any importance to the national or international public. I am now at your orders.

Holds News Conference

PA082159 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1816 GMT 8 May 84

[News conference held by President Jorge Illueca at the Presidential Palace in Panama City -- live]

[Excerpts]

[Excerpts] [Simms] Mr President, Steven Simms of THE NEW YORK TIMES. Last night, several newsmen were witnesses to the fact that while men armed with shotguns and dressed in civilian clothes roamed about freely and fired shots in front of the Legislative Palace, several national guardsmen were there and did not bother them, allowing these men to act freely. I would like to know if they were ordered not to interfere or if there has been any change in the position of the national guard on these issues.

[Illueca] I have no official report on the incidents you have mentioned, but I do want to tell you that the position of the national government is that there should be no armed people, and that such armed people should not circulate freely. The Defense Forces have been told that any armed men who are not members of the Defense Forces and who are involved in political activities must be arrested. I think that the government minister made a very clear statement on that. The measures taken by the cabinet are intended to prompt the attorney general to conduct an investigation.

I want to assure you that if we find any armed person who has committed illegal acts and has been identified as having done so, that person will have to face due punishment and answer for his activities, which are of course not legal.

[Salinas] Mr President, CARACOL Network of Colombia greets you. I am Sammy Salinas, special reporter. You said that you have instructed the Electoral Tribunal and the National Vote Counting Board to begin reading the tally sheets of the 40 electoral precincts, to quickly disclose the final result; in other words, to determine who won the elections in Panama. This must be done immediately. When, then, will the new president of Panama be known?

[Illueca] I am very pleased to have CARACOL Network here. I want to explain that I am not giving any instructions to the Electoral Tribunal or the National Vote Counting Board, because they constitute a system that is recognized by the Constitution and is independent of the executive branch. What I did say is that after my meeting with the cabinet, we decided to ask the National Vote Counting Board -- while informing the Electoral Tribunal, too -- to read the 40 tally sheets on the votes for president and vice president, taking into consideration the form prepared by the Electoral Tribunal. In other words, this is a request that we made to the National Vote Counting Board. This request should be granted as soon as the 40 tally sheets are received from the electoral precincts and if these sheets are not received at the National Vote Counting Board -- it must be understood that this is not an evasive statement -- then the Electoral Tribunal can supply the sheets, because they have copies of the documents. The 14 representatives of the parties and the electoral officials have copies of those sheets, too.

[Salinas] When will this be announced? Will it be this week? How long before an announcement is made?

[Illueca] We asked the National Vote Counting Board to hold a permanent session. The executive branch asked that these documents be read immediately. But I repeat, the Electoral Tribunal is a system that we respect and that was created in accordance with our constitutional system. However, I am hopeful that this procedure will be carried out and I believe that it must be initiated within the next 24 or 48 hours. It must be started today. However, this is a request being made by the executive branch, and it is the Electoral Tribunal that must make a decision.

[Hernandez] Rene Hernandez of TV-4. Mr President, in every country there are security organizations with uniformed men and plainclothesmen. There was some confusion yesterday as to who was in charge of protecting the Legislative Palace. As president and also, constitutionally, as supreme chief of the Defense Forces, will you give specific instructions to General Noriega so that those in charge of guarding the Legislative Palace are uniformed men?

[Illueca] In the talks I have held with General Manuel Antonio Noriega and members of his general staff, an interest in maintaining order has been presented. An interest in not disrupting social peace and also in respecting the rights of citizens has also been expressed.

I cannot say, for example, that there are no armed men in the presidential guard. There are armed men in it, and they are plainclothesmen who are part of my retinue.

I am speaking candidly. I believe that the effort we have exerted, the investment made in government funds, in our officials' time, and the time spent by the Panamanian people, who patiently waited to cast their ballot, is something that we should all guard.

I said this when I started my statement. What happened last night should never have happened. I cannot conceive of what kind of conscience a Panamanian must have to fire upon and kill another Panamanian. I will never understand this; it is something which we do not want to see happen.

[Bassey] Mr President, this is Kay Bassey of UPI. The two largest coalitions -- ADO and UNADE -- have announced they will hold some demonstrations this afternoon. Does the government plan to forbid these demonstrations?

[Illueca] The call I have issued for wisdom, good judgment, and order is directed at the leaders, directorate members of the political parties, and candidates, so that they will contribute to maintaining order. We live under a constitutional system, and the people have the right to meet and demonstrate as long as traffic is not interrupted and private property is not destroyed. Therefore, we cannot prevent these demonstrations. However, there is something we can do and have done: the Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama have received clear instructions today -- if the demonstrations are going to threaten the electoral organizations, then they will not be allowed. I wish to make myself clear about this: If the parties want to keep the results of these elections intact and continue with a harmonious process, then they have to cooperate so that order is not disrupted and violence is not increased.

CIRCUIT VOTES TALLIED IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Composite Results

PA082344 [Editorial Report] Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish at 2258 GMT on 8 May carried the following official composite elections results for the 6 May presidential elections for the five voting circuits counted thus far:

Presidential Candidate	Party	Votes
Nicolas Ardito Barletta	National Democratic Union	54,706
Arnulfo Arias Madrid	Democratic Opposition Alliance	47,410
Ruben Dario Paredes	Popular Nationalist Party	4,022
Carlos Ivan Zuniga	Popular Action Party	3,777
Jose Renan Esquivel	United People's Front	957
Carlos del Cid	People's Party	751
Ricardo Barria	Worker's Socialist Party	219

Ardito Leading

PA090103 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0049 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] Panama City, 8 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicolas Ardito Barletta, the official candidate, is leading his opponent Arnulfo Arias now that 10 of the total of 40 district tally sheets have been officially counted.

According to the National Vote Counting Board, Barletta, 45, candidate for the National Democratic Union, has collected 74,051 votes compared to the 61,257 garnered by Arias Madrid, 83, who heads the slate for the Democratic Opposition Alliance.

The counted votes represent 12 percent of the electoral census. All of the parties that ran in Sunday's election are represented on the National Vote Counting Board.

Ardito Holding Lead

PA090410 [Editorial Report] Panama City Circuito RPC Televison in Spanish at 0336 GMT on 9 May reported that with 786 polling places counted, official candidate Nicolas Ardito Barletta is leading with 80,820 votes, as opposed to 69,444 votes for opposition candidate Arnulfo Arias Madrid, giving Ardito Barletta a margin of 11,376 votes.

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL ISSUES VOTE COUNTING DECREE

PA081521 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 8 May 84 pp A 1, A 12

[Decree No 157 issued by the Electoral Tribunal on 7 May 1984]

[Text] Decree No 157 (of 7 May 1984)

By means of which measures are adopted in relation with the drafting of the tally sheets in the 40 Vote Counting Boards of Electoral Circuits.

The Electoral Tribunal, in the exercise of its constitutional and legal powers,

Considering:

That in accordance with the Electoral Code and Decree 8 of 1984, the Vote Counting Boards of Electoral Circuits are charged with the general vote-counting process for president, vice president, and legislators;

That the Vote Counting Boards of Electoral Circuits are obliged to draft a tally sheet recording the result of both votings and the proclamation of legislators;

That the National Vote Counting Board must tally the results of the election for president and vice presidents and proclaim the candidates elected to those posts, on the basis of the tally sheets prepared by the Vote Counting Boards of Electoral Circuits;

That since the Vote Counting Boards of Electoral Circuits must also count the votes for legislators and proclaim the candidates elected to those posts, it is advisable, in order not to delay the tasks of the National Vote Counting Board, to separate into two tally sheets the results of the vote counting process in the Vote Counting Boards of Electoral Circuits,

Decrees:

Article 1. The Vote Counting Boards of Electoral Circuits can separate into two different tally sheets the results of the general vote counting process for president and vice presidents of the Republic and for legislators and their alternates.

To this end, each tally sheet will have two originals, which will be submitted to the National Vote Counting Board and the Electoral Tribunal, respectively.

Article 2. Whenever the Vote Counting Boards of Electoral Circuits abide by what is established in the above article, they will use in each case the same model of tally sheet supplied by the Electoral Tribunal, but will eliminate the part that refers to the kind of election that is not being included.

As applicable, the top of the front page will indicate whether the tally sheet refers to the election for president or for legislator.

Article 3. Those Vote Counting Boards of Electoral Circuits that conclude the drafting of a single tally sheet will submit the originals in the manner established in Article 34, Numeral 6, of Decree 8 of 1984.

Article 4. Each member of a Vote Counting Board of Electoral Circuits will be entitled to an authenticated copy of the tally sheet or sheets drafted.

Article 5. This decree will go into effect as soon as sanctioned and must be published in the Electoral Tribunal's Bulletin.

Issued in Panama City, on 7 May 1984

To be released and published
Cesar Quintero, Magistrate President
Ronaldo Murgas Torrazza, Magistrate Vice President
Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez, Magistrate member
Everardo E. Tomlinson H., Secretary General

Counting Board To Renew Count

PA081439 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1335 GMT 8 May 84

[Special report by journalist Omayra De Leon, at the Legislative Palace, headquarters of the National Vote Counting Board -- live]

[Excerpt] This is Omayra De Leon, bringing you the latest information prior to the start of the National Vote Counting Board's meeting, which is scheduled for 0900. We report to our listeners and the nation in general that the situation around the palace is completely normal. We saw remnants of the violence which caused so much destruction to this historical building. We have learned that Dr Ulises Pitti, acting president of the National Vote Counting Board; Professor Victor Levy, secretary; and Felix Dormoi are still here. For your information, they have not left the premises at all. They have been guarding the documents, thus fulfilling their duty as members of the National Vote Counting Board, their duty to the citizenry.

We will talk with Dr Ulises Pitti, so he may tell our listeners about the agenda today.

[Pitti] Good morning, dear listeners. As you are well aware, Dr Levy and I remained here all night. We have not left the premises, guarding the documents brought to us. Dr Dormoi came this morning; other members are expected soon. As soon as we can install the board, we will continue with the vote tally from the different electoral circuits. We hereby issue a call to all electoral circuits to bring the documents so that we may start counting the votes.

We also spoke with [Electoral Tribunal President] Dr Cesar Quintero, who is in his office. All we can do now is wait for the arrival of the documents from all the electoral circuits and the other members of the National Vote Counting Board. We had decreed a recess until 0800 today, to restart the process. However, this might start a little later, perhaps at 0900. Nevertheless, we reiterate to the electoral circuits who have their documents ready: Please send them as soon as possible.

Counting Resumes

PA081543 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1506 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Panama City, 8 May (ACAN-EFE) -- A few minutes before 1000 (1500 GMT) the plenary session of the National Vote Counting Board was resumed. The Board is recounting the votes cast in the general and presidential elections which were held on 6 May.

The recount was suspended last night after only 1 of the 40 election certificates that must be sent to the board had been validated. Two more certificates were received Monday afternoon. Today's session is being chaired by Ulises Pitti because the incumbent chairman, Magistrate Ismael Garcia, left last night for a rest. There is no political activity in the vicinity of the Justo Arosemana Legislative Palace. Members of the Defense Forces are guarding the buiding, which is also the headquarters of the National Vote Counting Board.

Official Discusses Process

PA081833 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1714 GMT 8 May 84

[Interview with Ismael Garcia, president of the National Vote Counting Board, by an unidentified reporter at the Justo Arosemena Legislative Palace in Panama City -- live]

[Text] [Garcia] We have been organizing the means of tallying the voting table results. There is hope. We have here Voting Table 8.3, which has already been counted; Voting Table 6.1 is being counted as are Voting Tables 6.2, 8.1, 10.1, and 10.2. As soon as we finish this interview we will be involved in this.

[Reporter] Did yesterday's violent incidents, which left unfortunate results, have an effect on the vote-counting process, and in this sense, what measures are the Defense Forces implementing?

[Garcia] Unquestionably, yesterday's events were unfortunate. I hope they will not be repeated. There is no need to turn to violence to request one's rights. I have said many times that I will conduct an honest vote count, and he who wins will do so with votes that have been honestly counted. Yesterday's incidents undoubtedly had a big effect on all of us. They created panic and hysteria among the women. I hope we will have sufficient wisdom to maintain the necessary calm so that the count will take place normally and quickly. We cannot do more than we have already since the tally sheets have not arrived. I think they will all be here today or tomorrow. As I said earlier, we already have eight here. That gives us some hope, yesterday we only had one. Let us see if the citizens will listen to my remarks, which seek to give them confidence and faith that he who wins will have done so honestly.

Board in Permanent Session

PA082012 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1845 GMT 8 May 84

[Report by Osvaldo Gudino Aguilar]

[Text] A few minutes ago President Jorge Illueca emphatically urged the National Vote Counting Board to remain in session until the final results of the vote count are known. We asked Professor Ismael Garcia Stevenson about this. Professor Garcia said:

[Begin recording] [Gudino] The president has just told the country that he would like the vote-counting process to be speeded up, and that if possible the National Vote Counting Board should remain in permanent session.

[Garcia interrupts] I would like to reiterate to one and all: The National Vote Counting Board is in permanent session, but the election certificates have not been delivered. We have already worked on those that we received: We received eight, and are already through with them. No more certificates have been brought in. What can we do? Not even one more has been broguht in.

[Gudino] But you will continue in permanent session until all the work is done?

[Garcia] Yes, that is what the Electoral Code says. [end recording]

[Gudino] As you have just heard from Professor Garcia himself, the National Vote Counting Board is in permanent session. At this time there is a very brief recess, apparently because of the 8-1 circuit which caused a great many difficulties this morning. This circuit covers the Corregimiento of Arraijan, according to electoral board member (Felix Dormoi). As you also have heard, only 8 election certificates have been received out of a total of 40. This shows that the process is going very slowly. We are going to stay here at the Legislative Palace, however, because we want to be able to provide you with the details of each of the 40 electoral certificates.

VOTE COUNT DELAY, CONFRONTATIONS SCORED

PA081545 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 May 84 p 1 A

["As of Today" column]

[Text] The order and tranquillity that prevailed during Sunday's elections strengthened the illusion that the electoral process would end peacefullly with the prompt proclamation of the results and respect for the popular will. That illusion has suddenly been destroyed with the inexcusable delay in the count and yesterday's confrontations that lasted several hours without any authority doing anything to prevent what had obviously been deliberately prepared by progovernment paramilitary groups to intimidate the thousands of citizens who were awaiting with legitimate impatience the results of the count by the National Vote Counting Board in the Justo Arosemena Palace. The public force did not keep its word and did not fulfill its duty of maintaining order and peace, of guaranteeing the integrity of individuals and property. Moreover, for several hours the members of the National Vote Counting Board were unable to leave the building where they were holding sessions because no one could guarantee their security. The strategy is clear: **Violence and disorder** will delay the counting, they will permit the most varied frauds to distort the popular will, and, if all of that is not sufficient, they will leave the path clear for a new coup d'etat, making the promised reestablishment of democracy fail and plunging the nation to tragic and uncontrollable violence.

ARDITO BARLETTA DISCUSSES ELECTION, RESULTS

Rules Out Military Takeover

PA081506 Paris AFP in Spanish 1420 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Bogota, 8 May (AFP) -- In a telephone statement to Bogota's Radio CARACOL, Panamanian presidential candidate Nicolas Ardito Barletta today ruled out the possibility that the military will take over power in the country and predicted that "our candidacy should win by a margin of over 100,000 votes."

"The incomplete information that we have from our friends who acted as voting table officials indicates that our candidacy should win by more than 100,000 votes. We are calm," he said.

Ardito Barletta deplored last night's disturbances in Panama which left four dead, and he said that they were staged by emotional groups that took to the streets.

The candidate of the National Democratic Union [UNADE] also said that the two candidates disputing the presidency today issued repeated appeals to the Panamanian people to remain calm and to wait for the results in a civic manner.

In his statement, he explained that the delay in knowing the results of Sunday's elections is due to the fact that the vote counting is being done slowly but carefully to avoid error. He stressed the civic spirit shown during the elections, and he emphasized that the essential thing is that calm be maintained "to obtain the final results of the elections and the return to democracy."

The leader said that the results issued by the National Counting Board will be respected, and he guaranteed that the violent incidents will not be repeated, at least by supporters of UNADE. However, he noted that he has urged the board to speed up the vote count "so the Panamanian people will know who is the new president and control the emotions of political action."

Asked whether he was afraid that the Panamanian military will seize power in view of the delay in knowing the election results, Ardito Barletta said: "No, I don't think so and I don't expect it." He then noted that those who have participated in the Panamanian elections have the objective of guaranteeing "the implementation of all the democratic institutions and the preeminence of the civilian government."

"Above all, we want to achieve that objective and that is why we must act with honor and responsibility to prevent anything from destroying such a deeply felt desire of the Panamanian people." Ardito Barletta avoided at all times any reference to his rival, Arnulfo Arias, and just indicated that "the unofficial count has led us to conclude that the election has been a much tighter race than we expected."

Claims Victory

PA090231 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0215 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] Panama City, 8 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicolas Ardito Barletta, candidate for the National Democratic Union (UNADE), tonight proclaimed himself the winner of the Panamanian presidential election held on Sunday, 6 May.

Ardito Barletta, a 45-year-old economist, told a small group of newsmen that his supporters have counted the votes from 97 percent of the polling places and that he has an advantage of some 8,000 votes over Physician Arnulfo Arias Madrid, the opposition candidate. According to the UNADE candidate, some 650,000 Panamanians voted on Sunday, which means that 70 percent of the registered voters went to the polls.

Ardito Barletta, who up to some months ago was vice president of the World Bank, said that he will be the president of all Panamanians. However, because the official count is proceeding very slowly, it is necessary to wait for the National Vote Counting Board to complete its work, Ardito Barletta said.

On the other hand, late tonight the opposition alliance claimed that its candidate, Arnulfo Arias Madrid, had an advantage of 18,377 votes over Ardito Barletta. It said that its supporters had counted the votes from 2,923 polling places, or 75 percent of the total.

Rejects Possibility of Fraud

PA090440 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0250 GMT 9 May 84

[By Angel Antonio Garcia Munoz]

[Text] Panama City, 8 May -- (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicolas Ardito Barletta, until a few months ago vice president of the World Bank, tonight declared himself the winner of the presidential elections held on Sunday, 6 May.

Ardito Barletta, presidential candidate for the Democratic National Union (UNADE), said that the coalition has already tallied 97 percent of the votes throughout the country, covering some 3,750 polling booths.

According to UNADE, Nicolas Ardito has defeated three-time former President Arnulfo Arias Madrid by a margin estimated between 8,000 and 10,000 votes. Ardito called the results "tight," but said that he is certain of victory since the results "cannot be altered" at this stage. He rejected the possibility of fraud and described this term as "demagogic," adding: "I have a very clean conscience."

Referring to last night's incidents in which Jose Angel Gutierrez Vega was killed, he said that UNADE reported that the violence was staged by the opposition. He also said that the dead man's relatives are members of the Republican Party and that he was a government employee.

Ardito Barletta made these statements before a small group of journalists in a Panama City hotel. He joked with the journalists about their meeting with the "president-elect."

According to Ardito, 650,000 Panamanians voted on Sunday, representing 70 percent of the country's electorate, which totals 917,677 voters. He said that his government will seek the opinion of all Panamanians in order to bring the country out of its current economic crisis.

Nevertheless, he was cautious when declaring that it is necessary to wait for the National Vote Counting Board to finish its work, although he felt certain of his victory.

According to the National Vote Counting Board, Ardito Barletta has 25,941 votes to Arias Madrid's 21,273 so far, which represents 6 percent of the electorate.

The Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADO) tonight said that its candidate, Arnulfo Arias Madrid, is leading by its tally of 264,114 votes for ADO and 245,737 votes for UNADE, with 2,923 electoral booths counted.

PRD SEEKS 'FIRM DEFENSE' OF ELECTORAL VICTORY

PA082302 Paris AFP in Spanish 2156 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Panama City, 8 May (AFP) -- The ruling government's Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the mainstay of the National Democratic Union (UNADE), has called for a "firm defense of our electoral victory." Nicolas Ardito Barletta is UNADE's presidential candidate.

The PRD stressed that it is trying to "maintain public order using solely political means." However, a communique signed by PRD leader Nils Castro warned that "if the violent fascist acts continue, it is inevitable that peace must be restored using whatever legal means are necessary."

Last night followers of the UNADE and of the Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADO) clashed in downtown Panama City, with a toll of four dead from gunfire.

The PRD admitted that "the presidential elections have turned out to be closer than expected." It believes that its candidate "will obtain about 6,000 or 7,000 votes more than Arias in the final analysis."

As for the elections for legislators, the communique stated that "more than 600,000 votes have been counted unofficially, while there are still about 120,000 votes yet to be counted." The PRD claims to have obtained "more than a third of the legislative seats."

The PRD stated that "with our allies in UNADE, we will have more than half of the deputies in the Legislative Assembly."

The communique stated that out of the 67 Assembly seats, the PRD "already has at least 25 assured." Meanwhile, "the primary moderate opposition party, the Panamenist or Arnulfista Party, might obtain 10 seats."

The PRD stated that "as was expected, groups of Arnulfista and members of the Christian Democratic Party are intent on creating tension and disorder, so as to discredit and later disavow the results of the elections."

It further stated that the pro-UNADE victory "will enable Panama to continue its non-aligned foreign policy and its participation in the Contadora Group," which is currently engaged in mediating the Central American conflict. The PRD added that "Arnulfo Arias opposes this policy and advocates that Panama align itself completely with the Reagan administration's policy in Central America."

AUTHENTIC PANAMENIST PARTY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE

PA081527 Panama City YA in Spanish 8 May 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Authentic Panamenist Party has urged the allied parties of the Democratic Opposition Alliance and the Panamanian people to defend Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid's unquestionable victory in Sunday's elections.

The Authentic Panamenist communique points out that "each and every one of the province and district directorates and the executive corregimiento committees know perfectly well what civic and peaceful actions must be adopted so that civic and military authorities understand that they cannot steal the victory of a nation that is desperate and disappointed after 16 years of dictatorship."

The note, issued to the citizenry in general and signed by the Authentic Panamenist Party's national directorate, points out: "The authentic change, which the country needs and which is supported by the citizenry, has been ascertained by Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid's overwhelming victory -- according to the electoral results from all the provinces in the country."

The Authentic Panamenist Party's communique ends: "For the recovery of the people's sovereignty, expressed in an overwhelming way at the ballot boxes, and for a better Panama for all the Panamanians."

VIOLENCE, DEMONSTRATIONS ACCOMPANY ELECTIONS

Clashes 'Organized'

PA080240 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0150 GMT 8 May 84

[Running commentary by station director Demetrio Olaciregui at station studio and various reporters, including Rafael Vargas Santos, at the Justo Arosemena Legislative Palace in Panama City -- live]

[Excerpts] [Olaciregui] After we showed the entire world yesterday an example of an electoral competition carried out within the broadest climate of calm, freedom, and opportunities for everyone to cast his vote, it is truly regrettable that we should be presenting the international press with the spectacle that one can imagine from the reports that we have received and that you are reporting.

This is what concerns us: the fact that, before the foreign press that is here observing the course of the elections, after everyone voted with every facility, after all of the Electoral Tribunal's stipulations had been met, there should now be an attempt to pressure the National Vote Counting Board. We believe that the very reason the board has suspended its sessions at this time is the pressure to which it is subject, rather than because it has been working too hard. It is because of the pressure and the lack of security.

We at this station also believe that all of this is the result of a plan prepared by some opposition political groups who have seen that they are going to lose, and have thus decided to win by taking to the streets, taking the initiative, creating riots and disturbances. They want to produce deaths, and have already caused one. However, what they want is to have a direct confrontation with the Panama Defense Forces, in order to discredit those Forces in the eyes of the entire world, which is observing the Panamanian electoral force.

Our sources indicate that one person -- identified as Jose Angel Gutierrez Vega, 29 -- has already been killed in the shootout and that 20 people have been injured. We have also been informed that there are snipers posted in the area around the Legislative Palace.

[Vargas] As our station director has just stated, we have received reports that snipers are posted outside the Legislative Palace. The Defense Forces are now preparing an operation to get us out of here.

When we tell the people how these incidents occurred, we wish to highlight the role played by the Defense Forces. At no time have members of the Defense Forces made use of their weapons. We can bear witness to that. We have been outside the palace ever since the incidents began, and at no time have the members of the Defense Forces used their weapons. They have remained neutral, trying very respectfully to reestablish calm among all of the groups that were present here, to calm things down.

We have undergone moments of tension, and we are still experiencing them, because we have just been told that it is not possible to leave the building until the Defense Forces have carried out their operation. The 1st Doberman Company under Captain Lara is carrying out an operation to get us out of the Legislative Palace.

PRD 'Initiated' Incidents

PA081122 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1731 GMT 8 May 84

[By Mark Baillie]

[Text] Panama City, 8 May (LATIN-REUTER) -- The police today reported that 1 person was killed and 41 wounded in a violent confrontation after the first free elections in Panama in 16 years.

Heavily armed men carrying banners of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) opened fire yesterday on supporters of the opposition in front of the Legislative Palace while they were waiting for the results of elections that both candidates claim to have won.

Meanwhile, the vote counting continues inside the palace, although no results have been released more than 24 hours after the closing of the polls.

Members of the all-powerful national guard stationed in front of the palace did not intervene when the shooting broke out, and reinforcements deployed to the palace intermingled in the street with the armed civilians, witnesses said.

An opposition spokesman said yesterday that the delay in the vote counting has led to suspicion about electoral manipulation by the national guard, a traditionally dominant force in Panamanian politics.

National guard Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega had said that this force maintains a neutral position in the elections whose results it would respect, and that it would guarantee the peaceful course of the elections.

The official television channel last night accused the opposition -- led by 82-year-old Arnulfo Arias -- of having sponsored the outbreak of violence, although it did not give details of the incident.

The reporters present in the legislature saw about 400 people running fearfully when the shooting began in the square, where they had remained throughout the day awaiting the vote results.

After the shooting, 12 armed civilians carrying PRD banners entered the building without difficulty and left 10 minutes later.

In Sunday's elections, Arias, three-time Panamanian president and overthrown that many times by the national guard, faced PRD candidate Nicolas Ardito Barletta, who claimed he was leading his rival by 221,000 votes.

Arias, who also has proclaimed his victory, yesterday warned that "public peace depends on the behavior of the authorities in the vote count..."

Diplomatic sources said that despite the national guard's promise of neutrality, it would be unwilling to accept a victory by Arias, whom they described as opposed to an entire tradition of military involvement in Panamanian politics.

They said the national guard is afraid Arias will decide to reduce its powers over the government.

News Agency Criticized

PA081227 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1113 GMT 8 May 84

[Telephone statement by station news director Demetrio Olaciregui at 0600 GMT on 8 May -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Station newsman Celso Elias Barb Caballero] There have been reports of 40 injured in the Santo Tomas Hospital and 10 injured in the Social Security's General Hospital. We telephoned these two hospitals, which confirmed that only one person had been killed, Jose Angel Gutierrez Vega. Therefore, reports by international news agencies have not been confirmed. Some people have been repeating these international news dispatches, creating confusion and alarming the people with these unfounded reports.

[Station director Danilo Caballero] Not only that, Celso, there is an international news agency, whose name I am not going to disclose due to professional ethics, which has been continuously and systematically misinforming the country and the world regarding the true situation in Panama. In yesterday's issue of MATUTINO Demetrio Olaciregui, our news director, referred precisely to the problem of the misleading reports that this agency files regarding the situation in Panama. Let us speak to him on the phone to hear what he has to say about this.

Sorry, we lost contact. As I was saying, in yesterday's MATUTINO Demetrio Olaciregui commented on the misinformation that this agency disseminates regarding Panama's situation. This agency is widely disseminated in Central America.

[Barb Caballero] Thank you, Danilo. We have reestablished contact with Olaciregui. Here is our news director.

[Olaciregui] Thank you, Celso Elias. Greetings to listeners throughout the country. Over the past few weeks we have been seeing with much concern how the social and political reality of our country has been distorted in dispatches by international news agencies which are regularly disseminating unfounded reports to the world. Since news as a business is based on sex, violence, and sports, there were no elements in the Panamanian elections to allow those who speculate about the crises of the world's peoples to send dispatches that would merit banner headlines in newspapers or flash reports on the newscasts in neighboring countries or countries throughout the world. This is why these creators of fiction are speculating about Panama's reality. This is a cause for concern, and measures must be taken to prevent foreigners who are enjoying our hospitality from distorting our country's reality.

Regarding last night's incidents, we must deplore the aggressive manner in which radicalized political groups -- which have been identified as partisans of the Panamanian Christian Democracy -- attacked newsmen and photographers of EDITORA RENOVACION and international newsmen covering the development of the elections in Panama.

Photographs taken by newsmen from MATUTINO and CRITICA and footage taken by television film crews show the truth of the incidents, of these vandalistic actions. Some newsmen were harassed and others were even beaten. There was robbery and pillaging; a veritable orgy of violence staged by elements who have truly not realized that Panama wants peace, that the Panamanian people went to the polls to consolidate peace and to give an example not only to this hemisphere, but to the world, as international observers have noted.

We believe that the Panamanian people do not in any way agree with these promoters of hate, violence, and revenge, who are not newcomers to the scene but who have systematically promoted this before and during the elections. They have used minors and youths who do not have full capacity for reflection and who are easily manipulated.

UNADE Organizes Caravan

PA081650 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1559 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] A great caravan is being organized beginning at 1400 today by the parties that make up the National Democratic Union, [UNADE], according to a communique issued by the UNADE's press department. The communique says that the caravan will leave from the El Dorado Shopping Center at 1400 hours.

The communique says: UNADE and its parties, the Democratic Revolutionary Party, Labor Party, FRAMPO [Popular Broad Front Party], Liberal Party, Republican Party, and Panamenist Party invite all UNADE supporters to join in a caravan that is going to traverse the city's main thoroughfares and wind up at UNADE headquarters on Via Espana.

The communique is signed by members of UNADE's press department.

Opposition Blames One Another

PA081718 Paris AFP in Spanish 1605 GMT 8 May 84

[By AFP correspondent Humberto Arce]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 8 May (AFP) -- Amid the growing passions on the part of leaders and activists of the two principal groups, which have claimed the victory of their candidates in the elections, the Panamanian capital last night experienced 4 hours of "the most violent disturbances that have ever occurred here in the past 20 years," according to the local media.

Leaders and folowers of Torrijism and of the opposition blamed one another last night for the disturbances, and arguments to this effect continued today in the local press.

Although the city appeared calm this morning, tension prevailed in Panama where the absence of official data has given rise to several rumors ranging from fraud to an imminent coup.

The climate of uncertainty is such that an important radio station connected with the government had reported the resignation of Cesar Quintero, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, a rumor which was immediately denied by Quintero himself.

The National Vote Counting Board was preparing to resume the vote count today of the 40 tally sheets from the regional board officials, which began to trail in slowly last night to their office.

Despite the recrimination by the Electoral Tribunal of the parties for inciting their followers with the announcement of unofficial results, they continued today to provide "the triumphant figures." The officialist National Democratic Union (UNADE) reported that after counting 3,000 polling places -- more than three-fourths of the total -- its candidate, Ardito Barletta, is ahead by 252,556 votes to 244,266 of Arias. Meanwhile, the Democratic Opposition Alliance insisted that the vote count favors it with a margin of almost 50,000 votes.

Security Cordon at Palace

PA081903 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Calm seemed to have returned to Panama City this morning following the incidents near the Justo Arosemena Legislative Palace. The capital and its outskirts are in complete calm, and commercial, industrial, and government activities are being carried out normally, without any incidents that disrupt peace.

As a result of yesterday's violent incidents at the Legislative Palace, site of the National Vote Counting Board, members of the Defense Forces have set up a security cordon in that area. Meanwhile, the counting of the votes from Sunday's presidential elections by the National Vote Counting Board continued slowly. It must be stressed that the Defense Forces have increased surveillance in the area. The Legislative Palace shows clear signs of yesterday's violence, which had unfortunate results.

The Defense Forces have also established strict security measures in the Electoral Tribunal so that the area will not be the target of sectors that have been provoking anarchy at the moment when, as communiques of the different political groups state, harmony is being sought.

It must be stressed that yesterday's violence left 1 dead, identified as 29-year-old Jose Angel Gutierrez Vega, and more than 40 wounded. The confrontations with sticks, stones, and firearms tarnished the presidential elections. The shooting in the area of the Legislative Palace continued until late last night.

Demonstrations Called Off

PA082315 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2230 GMT 8 May 84

[Excerpt] Panama City, 8 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The two main political coalitions in Panama have called off their respective party rallies to forestall further incidents. Sources at the National Democratic Union (UNADE) confirmed for ACAN-EFE that its members would not hold their motorcade this afternoon and said that members have been summoned to the party headquarters. The Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADO] has also summoned its members to its party headquarters. An ADO spokesman told ACAN-EFE: "We have made it clear that if they [the UNADE members] do not take to the streets, we won't either."

PAPO Protests Violence

PA081704 Panama City YA in Spanish 8 May 84 p 2

[Statement by the Peoples Action Party; no date or place given]

[Text] The Peoples Action Party, PAPO, thanks the Panamanian people for their support during the elections and hereby announces its decision to continue working for an effective democratization of the country. At this moment, PAPO asks the National Vote Counting Board to immediately proceed to count the votes for the presidential candidates and to proclaim the winner based on the will of the majority, before the people begin questioning the work of the elections organizations.

PAPO also wants to protest the violence that has been unleashed, a violence that harms our people, and declares that these incidents were provoked to maintain the political system that has been misgoverning Panama for the past 16 years. We believe that those who are promoting violence are doing it so that later they can present themselves as the forces of peace.

This behavior is detestable because it is aimed at confusing the people and making a mockery of the people's will through deceit.

We are making a civic appeal to the political parties and people to maintain a climate of prudence and to seek solutions based on respect for the will of the Panamanian people.

SOVIET NONPARTICIPATION IN OLYMPICS NOTED

PA082106 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1955 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Due to the intolerable conditions imposed by the committee that is organizing the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, the Soviet Olympic Committee today decided to refrain from participating in the sports events that brings all of the world's top athletes together.

The Soviet Olympic Committee charged President Ronald Reagan with responsibility for the existing situation and said that he has continued to interfere in the organization of the sports events.

In a communique, the Soviet Olympic Committee accused Washington of using the Olympics as a political tool, of harboring chauvinistic feelings, and of fostering anti-Soviet hysteria. The communique adds that from the very first moment, the organizers, with the intervention of the Reagan Administration, strived to create conditions that would be intolerable for the Soviet delegation and that would impair the performance of the Soviet athletes, all with the active sponsorship of the U.S. authorities.

In the United States, the news that the Soviet Union was not going to participate in the Olympic Games had the impact of a bomb, although the conditions imposed by Washington were conducive to just such a decision. The U.S. National Olympic Committee and the Olympic Committee for the World Games refused to comment for the time being.

The news was learned in Washington 30 minutes before President Ronald Reagan met with Spaniard Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee. The Solviet Union's withdrawal from the Olympic Games was agreed upon unanimously by its 29 sports federations and it is expected that the other Socialist bloc countries will follow suit. According to a report today in the London evening newspaper THE STANDARD the Soviet Union and the East European countries might organize an alternative set of Olympic Games in Bulgaria. THE STANDARD published a report along these lines on its front page, signed by Victor Lewis, a newsman close to the Kremlin who is considered an unofficial spokesman for the Soviet Union.

The report says that the plans for these communist Olympic Games have already been prepared, up to the very last details. THE STANDARD report says that it is expected that now that the Soviet Union has officially announced its withdrawal from the Los Angeles Olympic Games, the other East European countries, with the exception of Romania, will make similar announcements.

The Soviet Union's decision caps a campaign in the Soviet official press on non-participation in the Olympics, based on the argument that there is an anti-Soviet campaign underway in the United States and that there is a terrorist threat to Soviet althletes.

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPELS NICARAGUAN OFFICIAL

PA082309 Paris AFP in Spanish 2237 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] San Jose, 8 May (AFP) -- The Costa Rican Government has decided to expel an administrative official at the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose. He has been given 48 hours to leave the country.

Sources inside the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry said the decision derives from a publication issued by the Nicaraguan Embassy and published in the local press that the government considers "insulting and untrue."

The note sent by the Costa Rican Government to Leonor Arguello, Nicaragua's ambassador to Costa Rica, declares Gutierrez "persona non grata."

Offensive Publication Protested

PA090240 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] Costa Rica has sent a new protest to the Sandinist Government over an offense. The Costa Rican Government has strongly protested to the Nicaraguan Government over what it feels is a serious offense that was published in local papers.

The communique that the Costa Rican Government is protesting is not only false but is offensive to the Costa Rican Government and people. Therefore, the government has demanded immediate satisfaction [passage indistinct].

The publication of the communique, which makes serious charges against the Costa Rican Government, is considered an abuse of the freedom of expression practiced in democratic countries like Costa Rica.

The note sent today by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez to his Nicaraguan colleague Miguel D'Escoto states that the Costa Rican Goverment is indignant at the false statements contained in the communique, which is part of the misinformation campaign that the Nicaraguan Government has unleashed against the Costa Rican Government [words indistinct].

GUTIERREZ DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA

PM040955 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 28 Apr 84 p 4

[Undated interview with Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez by Cees Zoon: "We Do Not Want Confrontation With Nicaragua"]

[Text] San Jose -- Carlos Jose Gutierrez has been Costa Rica's Foreign minister for the last 3 months. He succeeded Minister Volio, who was well known as an anticommunist, which did not help relations with neighboring Nicaragua.

Gutierrez seems much more moderate, with the result that he is regularly described as lax by his critics. More than ever before, Costa Rica is involved in the Central American conflict, since rebels under the leadership of former Sandinist guerrilla leader Eden Pastora have been mounting armed actions against the regime in Nicaragua from Costa Rica.

[Zoon] It looks as if the Costa Rican Government has been engaged in an offensive against Eden Pastora's Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE) for the last few days.

[Gutierrez] We consider it necessary to put an end to ARDE's activities in Costa Rica. Our point of departure here is that we do not want to get drawn into the armed conflict in Central America. That is the most important aspect of the declaration of neutrality made last year by President Monge. In the escalation of the fighting in Nicaragua we consider it necessary that ARDE should not use our territory for its armed conflict, just as we do not accept border violations on the part of the Sandinist government.

[Zoon] Do you believe it is possible to put an end to all of ARDE's activities in Costa Rica?

[Gutierrez] What we want is to block all armed actions. We have always made the distinction between political and armed conflict. Bearing in mind that Costa Rica is a free country, we cannot limit ARDE's political activities, nor would we do so. But as far as it is in our power, we want to call a halt to armed actions. Eliminating them all together is perhaps a little too optimistic. We must take as our point of departure the fact that ARDE can count on the support of fairly large sections of the Costa Rican population who are prepared to work with ARDE and who sympathize with ARDE's cause and are hostile to the Sandinist government. It would be an illusion to think that we could put a complete stop to support, but we are doing our best to reduce it and we are trying to eliminate it.

[Zoon] How would you describe relations between Costa Rica and the Sandinists?

[Gutierrez] It seems as if, because greater pressure is being put on them, they are throwing caution to the winds and adopting a more rigid stance within Central America, that the situation is hardening them. We have always hoped for correct relations. There can be no doubt that our systems of government are totally different. We are not striving to become friends with the Sandinist government, but we want correct relations with Nicaragua.

For us, there is one essential condition here: respect for our sovereignty, our territorial integrity. In the last few days there have been a couple of new violations, as a result of which we sent a protest note to Managua. The Sandinist government does not seem to have the same intention, although in the letter which he recently sent to President Monge, Daniel Ortega said that this is also a Nicaraguan interest. We are very satisified with correct relations, but if they deteriorate we would adapt ourselves to the situation, but that would not then be our fault.

[Zoon] There is some criticism of you personally. You are said to be too moderate.

[Gutierrez] It is very possible that I am moderate. But our point of departure is the preservation of peace in Costa Rica. We believe that Costa Rica is neither in a position nor prepared to start a holy war against the Nicaraguan Government. We want internal peace so we can tackle our own problems -- the economic crisis and the consequent social effects. We do not want a direct confrontation with Nicaragua, and our neutrality must be understood in this sense. That is what some people call a moderate, even timid approach.

[Zoon] The government here is still talking about an international campaign being conducted against Costa Rica, by whom exactly?

[Gutierrez] Since 1982, primarily by the Nicaraguan Government and those who think that the Sandinist model is the model for Central America. The vision conflicts with the fact that to the south of Nicaragua there exists a democracy along Western lines which is already 100 years old. This is a negation of their position. And thus Costa Rica must be attacked. We have been accused of a whole series of aggressive acts, simply to discredit us.

[Zoon] But the U.S. press, to take just one example, does not work for the Sandinists?

[Gutierrez] Then there are problems with the U.S. press. It attacks the U.S. Government on its policy toward Nicaragua. All countries that are not for Nicaragua are against it. Just like all the other countries in the region, we have problems with Nicaragua. Because the situation in Costa Rica is atypical and to simplify matters for their readers, they try to reduce this to terms of "these are on one side and those on the other." They try to simplify Costa Rica's position in Central America. I am not saying that this is done with evil intent, but they do contribute to the campaign against our country.

[Zoon] But a newspaper like THE NEW YORK TIMES has a good reputation for reliability.

[Gutierrez] Of course, but if you ask them for evidence for their anti-Costa Rican pieces, you are told that officials whom they consider to be reliable have said this or that. These reports have not been verified. According to our data, the journalist who wrote this week about CIA bribes to Costa Ricans has not even been in Costa Rica in the last month. You ask youself how this is possible in a newspaper which is generally well informed. They themselves have said that they have no proof. This is what is called "hearsay" in English, rumors.

[Zoon] Has the United States put any economic pressure on Costa Rica? After all, Costa Rica needs hard cash from abroad.

[Gutierrez] Never in the 2 years of this government has pressure been applied, nor have there been requests that we allow attacks on Nicaragua from Costa Rica. I do not have any personal knowledge of this -- I have only been a minister for 3 months -- but I have the president's word on this.

[Zoon] A different topic. Last Wednesday, some Central American ministers held a preparatory meeting in El Salvador prior to the meeting next Monday in Panama of the Contadora Group.

[Gutierrez] Yes, that was a very fruitful meeting, at which it was clear that we are agreed on many points, and not only about Nicaragua. The Salvadoran minister made a very clear statement about the obligation to start an internal dialogue in his country. Thus we did not only talk about an internal dialogue in Nicaragua -- which is needed -- but confirmation was also given by an official Salvadoran representative of an internal dialogue in his country.

[Zoon] On your return to Costa Rica you said that Nicaragua is boycotting the work of the Contadora Group.

[Gutierrez] Salvadoran Minister Cavez Mena talked to Oscar Castro, El Salvador's ambassador to the OAS Commission for Political Affairs [as published on Tuesday Nicaragua said that it was not prepared to meets all the demands relating to the process of democratization, a democratization process along Western lines.

Nicaragua said that its ideas of democracy are very different. In addition, in the security committee [as published] Nicaragua has made it clear that it cannot accept any reduction in its level of arms; that Nicaragua cannot reduce its arms level, because it is at war with the United States, although not with its neighbors. For this reason, Nicaragua cannot accept a military balance with the other Central American nations. This gives you reason to think, for as a result the Nicaraguan arms level would have to be raised to that of the United States.

[Zoon] Nicaraguan Minister D'Escoto was not present at the El Salvador meeting.

[Gutierrez] No, it was a meeting of ministers who thought they could find a common stance for next Monday.

[Zoon] Is there a basis for success at Monday's Contadora Group meeting?

[Gutierrez] The character of the meeting has changed. Originally it was to have been the beginning of discussions at ministerial level about formulas for peaceful solutions to the Central American problem. But now it will only concern itself with listening to the reports of the working committees. Speaking honestly, I believe that procedures are the only thing which will be discussed and that no definite or radical decisions will be made.

This is also connected with the fact that a week after the meeting presidential elections will be held in one Contadora Group country (Panama) and one Central American country (El Salvador). The meeting should really have taken place after 6 May. The Contadora Group did not postpone the meeting, but did change the nature of its meeting.

[Zoon] Will Costa Rica again ask for Contadora observers on its border with Nicaragua?

[Gutierrez] Yes, I will point to Costa Rica's interest in preserving its neutrality, primarily with regard to the problems with the Sandinist government. We are dealing with Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, for which reason observers on the border are important. Costa Rica has a general interest in peace in Central America, but also a particular interest, without which the first is not possible, namely, peace in Costa Rica. We want peace for the whole of Central America, but if that is not possible, we want peace to be preserved at least in Costa Rica.

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE PROCLAIMS HIMSELF PRESIDENT-ELECT

Requests U.S. Military Aid

PA081130 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0856 GMT 8 May 84

[By Robert Block]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 8 May (LATIN-REUTER) -- Jose Napoleon Duarte last night proclaimed himself president-elect of El Salvador and issued an urgent call to the United States to send more military and economic aid to the country.

Talking with journalists at a press conference, the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, leader claimed victory in Sunday's presidential elections, saying he had passed his ultrarightist opponent, Roberto D'Aubuisson, candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, by more than 10 percent of the votes.

D'Aubuisson has refused to admit defeat while the vote tally continues today. The final electoral results will be revealed tomorrow.

Referring to himself as "president-elect of El Salvador," Duarte issued a declaration addressed "to the democratic countries of the world" asking them to "help the Salvadoran people and simultaneously contribute to security and stability in the hemisphere."

"I am sure we will receive much broader support from the U.S. people and Government," Duarte said during a press conference yesterday which included many cheering followers. Duarte said he will try to convince the guerrilla groups to lay down their weapons, even though he promised to "struggle to defend the victory of democracy in El Salvador."

Urges Joining 'Social Pact'

PA081226 Paris AFP in Spanish 1114 GMT 8 May 84

[By Jean-Pierre Bousquet]

[Text] San Salvador, 8 May (AFP) -- Without waiting for the official results of Sunday's Salvadoran presidential elections, Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte has already adopted a very presidential tone to announce the great options of his policy. Meanwhile, the Central Electoral Council has refused to announce the unofficial provisional results and the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) has limited itself to recognizing a slight lead by the Christian Democratic candidate. Jose Napoleon Duarte yesterday issued his first presidential proclamation.

Before a meeting of supporters and journalists, Duarte promised "before the Salvadoran people and all the peoples of the world" to keep his campaign promises.

[Word indistinct] the democratic opening, the calls to harmony, and the demonstrations of firmness, Duarte, who presented himself as "the president of all Salvadorans, to serve and not to help himself," to some extent gave a preview of his inauguration speech on 1 June.

To eliminate from El Salvador "hatred, resentment, revenge, and vengeance," Duarte issued a call to "all the political, economic, and social forces" to join the social pact that he is proposing to the nation.

In his appeal, Duarte said that there will be an opening to all sectors of society, although it will not be devoid of firmness.

To the political parties and especially to Major Roberto D'Aubuisson's extreme rightist ARENA, which he criticized for not having shown a "democratic inclination" so far, Duarte asked that they accept "with generosity the popular desire for Christian Democracy and Napoleon Duarte to govern."

Regarding private enterprise, which he tried to reassure, Duarte asked that "it fully undertake its role in society" in exchange for the support and understanding of those whom it will benefit.

To the guerrillas, whom he included in his call to all Salvadorans to participate in the social pact, Duarte asked that "as with ARENA, they assume their responsibility in the stabilization of the democratic process" and that they "stop using violence."

His most emphatic statements were directed at the Armed Forces, whom he reminded that the Constitution grants him the "power and the conditions to exercise the general command of the Armed Forces."

"The Armed Forces will be characterized by uprighteness, obedience, apolitical position, and discipline in the affairs of service. I will enforce these concepts," Duarte said. This statement on his intentions will undoubtedly provoke reactions in the garrisons, where the Christian Democratic leader does not enjoy particular prestige, despite the promises made by Defense Minister General Eugenio Vides Casanova about the Army respecting the verdict at the ballot boxes without the least restriction.

On his part, Duarte "rejected the presence of any foreign troops in the area, be they North American, Cuban, or Nicaraguan," but he left the door open to receive advisers, stating that "the country has the absolute right to choose the advisers it needs." Questioned about the death squads, Duarte said that as soon as he takes office, he will create a commission to investigate "all types of violence" for the purpose of turning those responsible over to the courts. Nevertheless, he did not issue on opinion on the fate of arrested union leaders, stressing that their cases are in the hands of the courts. He just indicated that he will try to speed up the trials.

UNGO TERMS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 'BLOODY FARCE'

PY081542 Paris AFP in Spanish 0435 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Lima, 8 May (AFP) -- Salvadoran guerrilla leader Tomas Ungo today termed the presidential elections held on Sunday in his country a bloody farce. According to the unofficial vote count, Christian Democratic leader Napoleon Duarte will be the next elected chief of state. Ungo, who came to Lima for a meeting of the Socialist International on Latin America and the Caribbean, added that the elections held yesterday were not elections but a comedy of the right. He added that elections cannot be held in a country where 40,000 persons died during the past 4 years. He also said that no elections can be held in a nation where one fourth of the districts did not vote and where 10 percent of the citizenry are in exile.

HONDURAS

NICARAGUA DOWNS MILITARY HELICOPTER; 8 DIE

PA082239 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2225 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Authorized military sources confirmed for ACAN-EFE today that a Honduran military helicopter was downed in the Gulf of Fonseca this morning by members of the Sandinist People's Army.

The sources said that "the helicopter was carrying two military personnel -- the pilot and copilot -- and three civilians, who were involved in civic activities on El Tigre Island, in the Gulf of Fonseca." They added that "the aircraft left Tegucigalpa this morning for that island in the Pacific and was hit in Honduran airspace by Sandinist Army antiaircraft fire."

El Tigre Island is located in the Gulf of Fonseca, in the Pacific Ocean, which is shared by Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador.

According to Honduran military sources, "the aircraft was hit as it was returning to the capital at approximately 0900 today."

Suazo Calls Meeting

PA082324 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2243 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Presidential sources told ACAN-EFE today that President Roberto Suazo Cordova has called an urgent meeting of the National Defense Council "to examine the consequences of the downing of a military helicopter by Sandinist forces."

The sources said that "now, at 2000 GMT, the president, as the constitutional head of the Armed Forces, is meeting with top military commanders and government members." The National Defense Council consists of government members and the commanders of the Honduran Armed Forces. Normally, the Council coordinates between the civilian and military branches. However, under special circumstances it can make decisions on critical situations.

Honduran military sources confirmed that a Honduran military helicopter was shot down by Sandinist soldiers this morning "when it was returning to Tegucigalpa from El Tigre Island in the Pacific Ocean." According to Honduras, "two military personnel and three civilians were aboard the craft when it was downed. One of the civilians was Jose Napoleon Castellanos, a 50-year-old civil engineer. Another civilian was an unidentified lawyer." According to the Honduran Army, the downed helicopter "was involved in civic action tasks in the Gulf of Fonseca."

General Comments on Incident

PA090011 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2313 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 May (ACAN-EFE) -- A total of eight people, five military and three civilians, were killed today when a Honduran helicopter was shot down by Sandinist soldiers, according to General Walter Lopez Reyes, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces. At the end of a meeting of the Superior National Defense Council, which is made up of government representatives and top military authorities, Gen Lopez Reyes confirmed that "according to the Nicaraguans, the aircraft was downed in their territory, some 8 km northeast of Potosi, on the Cosiguina Peninsula."

Gen Lopez Reyes said that "the helicopter was piloted by a woman, Lieutenant Arzu, and was carrying two persons assigned to the Armed Forces Paymaster's Office, a lawyer, a civil engineer, and three other Army personnel." Asked whether this incident would further aggravate the tense relations between Honduras and Nicaragua, the Armed Forces chief said: "It is necessary to investigate further before expressing opinions."

"This matter has not yet been investigated in depth. We will probably be able to give more details tomorrow," he said.

Protest Sent to Nicaragua

PA090431 Paris AFP in Spanish 0409 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 May (AFP) -- The Honduran Government tonight strongly protested to the Nicaraguan Government over the downing of an "unarmed" transport helicopter and the death of eight crewmembers, labelling the incident "a dramatic expression of the warmongering attitude" of the Managua regime. Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica sent the note to his Nicaraguan colleague, Miguel D'Escoto. Paz Barnica condemned the "brutal downing" of the craft, which took place in the Gulf of Fonseca area today at 0900 (1500 GMT).

PAZ BARNICA DISCUSSES DOMESTIC, FOREIGN ISSUES

PA081656 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] The Honduran Government does not interfere in the internal affairs of other political organizations, Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica said in reference to charges by the National Party of Honduras.

Each organization has the right to discuss the problems it deems suitable. I firmly believe that the current democratic government, which is a result of free and honest elections, is not interfering in other political organizations, the foreign secretary said.

The political organizations opposed to the ruling party have their representatives in the National Electoral Tribunal and the National Civil Register, so I don't think there is interference in their internal affairs. They also form part of the political dynamics of democracy, the official said.

He also announced that his next appearance before the National Congress will be public and that during his appearance he will explain the projection of Honduras' policy abroad, which is minimal if it is compared to the trips made by his Nicaraguan counterpart to discredit Honduras.

He described the recent Salvadoran elections as a very positive step in the process of negotiating peace in the area and an essential advance in the process of transition to Central American democracy. Guatemala will also contribute to this process, considering that it has already announced constituent assembly elections for 1 June.

Paz Barnica also reiterated Honduras' willingness to sign, conclude, or negotiate a general peace treaty within the framework of the Contadora Group efforts and within an overall and regional context.

COMMUNIST LEADER COMMENTS ON POLITICAL SITUATION

PA050246 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 3 May 84 p 26

[Text] San Pedro Sula -- If the new Army leadership establishes the necessary guarantees, the Communist Party of Honduras (PCH) could participate in the next presidential elections, according to Mario Sosa Navarro, a long-standing member of the party. Sosa Navarro, who is a member of the national political commission of the PCH, said that the PCH has remained underground because of a lack of guarantees, but that if the government, and specifically the new military members who form part of the Amred Forces High Command, provide guarantees and security to its members, the PCH will surely participate in the next electoral process.

Sosa Navarro said that the PCH does not have a sufficient number of members or sympathizers to obtain political control of the nation at the present time, but that the important thing is to participate in the process so long as it is not rigged. He added that at the present time there are two developing parties that could become an alternative solution for the country in the future. They are the Honduran Christian Democratic Party (PDCH) and the Innovation and Unity Party (PINU).

Sosa Navarro said that he is opposed to violence and that the PCH is struggling to obtain power peacefully, not through violence, as some would like the country to believe. He spoke about the ouster of General Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez Martinez, the reshuffle of the Armed Forces leadership, and the country's political and economic situation.

He added that several Honduran "comrades" have disappeared, but that there is no reliable proof of who is responsible. Navarro said that the Communist Party has no hard information on the whereabouts of the missing persons, on the officials of the clandestine jails, or on the presumed paramilitary gangs that operate in the country.

Concluding, Navarro said that he could not predict whether the Salvadoran Government would fail in the near future, as happened in Nicaragua, because the struggles are quite different.

NICARAGUA

PEOPLE'S ARMY DOWNS HONDURAN HELICOPTER

Foreign Ministry Communique

PA090040 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 8 May 84

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in Managua on 8 May]

[Text] Today, Tuesday, 8 May 1984, at 0900, Sandinist People's Army units stationed in Potosi shot down a Honduran Air Force helicopter carrying five crewmen. All five were killed.

One of the crewmen, Jose Napoleon Castellanos, carried Honduran Air Force identification card No 00129. The identification card lists him as a member of the Honduran Air Force Department of Engineering.

The helicopter, one of the two that entered Nicaraguan airspace at the same place and time, fell to the ground 8 km northwest of Potosi, in the place known as Santa Julia, in Nicaraguan territory.

This incident once again again proves the dangerous nature of Washington's policy, which, in the face of the failure of the political and military actions carried out by the mercenaries led by the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, is pushing the Honduran Armed Forces into taking an increasingly direct part in the attacks on Nicaragua.

In lamenting the death of these Honduran brothers, who are victims of the U.S. policy in the region, we express our most profound condolences to their families, while at the same time urging the Honduran Government to reconsider and to put an end, once and for all, to its irresponsible policy, which endangers the lives of Honduran citizens by increasingly involving them in the CIA's criminal attacks on Nicaragua.

D'Escoto News Conference

PA082224 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2130 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Managua, ANN -- The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has reported that two Honduran helicopters have violated Nicaraguan airspace on the Cosiguina Peninsula, in the Gulf of Fonseca, adding that one of them was shot down and that its five crewmen are dead.

At a rapidly called news conference, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said that the helicopter that was shot down was flying over the area known as Santa Julia, 9 km northwest of Potosi, a fishing port on the Gulf of Fonseca that has been the victim of several counterrevolutionary attacks in the past.

The bodies of five crewmen, all military, were found inside the helicopter. One of them was identified as Jose Napoleon Castellanos, serial No 00120 [as heard], a member of the Honduran Air Force Department of Engineering.

A U.S. helicopter that entered Nicaraguan airspace last 11 January in the area of Jalapa, in northern Nicaragua, was shot down at that time too. The U.S. Government admitted that Nicaragua's airspace had been violated and claimed that the helicopter had inadvertendly drifted from its flight plan during a joint U.S.-Honduran military exercise.

When the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry reported this latest violation of Nicaragua's airspace, it also reported that it has urged the Honduran Government to prevent further such incidents, which only endanger the lives of Honduran citizens and serve to confirm the escalation of aggression that the United States, with the Honduran Government's help, is undertaking against Nicaragua.

Linked to U.S. Army

PA090244 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0223 GMT 9 May 84

[Excerpt] Managua, 8 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry tonight announced that the helicopter that was downed today on the Honduran border "presumably" belongs to the U.S. Armed Forces.

Nicaraguan chief diplomat Miguel D'Escoto had initially reported that the aircraft, downed "as it was flying over national territory," belonged to the Honduran Armed Forces.

However, later reports indicate that the fuselage of the helicopter carries the inscription "U.S. Army commander," which "leads one to presume" that the helicopter belongs to the U.S. Army.

ORTEGA MEETS DEBRAY, REQUESTS FRENCH AID

PA081403 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has issued an urgent call to the French Government for technical and material aid to sweep the mined Nicaraguan ports.

During a meeting last night with Regis Debray, French President Francois Mitterrand's adviser on Latin American affairs, Commander Ortega explained the hardships the Nicaraguan people are suffering as a result of the aggressions of the Reagan administration.

Commander Ortega stressed the need for an immediate reply to the Nicaraguan call for help in sweeping the mines, which threaten international navigation. Debray, who listened closely to Ortega's statement, offered to report the Nicaraguan request to his government immediately.

During the meeting Ortega was accompanied by Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto, Deputy Defense Minister Joaquin Cuadra, and Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga.

Debray, Delegation Depart

PA082307 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] The French delegation led by Regis Debray, French President Francois Mitterrand's adviser on Latin American affairs, left for France today following a 7-day stay in Nicaragua.

During his visit Debray held talks with Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, member of the Government Junta, and with members of the FSLN National Directorate. Within the framework of this important visit by the French delegation, the Nicaraguan Government repeated its request for support from France in removing the mines from our country's ports. The French delegation was seen off at Sandino Airport by Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga and other Foreign Ministry officials.

ORTEGA ADDRESSES STATE COUNCIL OPENING SESSION

PA081550 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 84

[Speech by Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, at the opening session of the Nicaraguan State Council in Managua on 4 May -- recorded]

[Excerpt] At present, "Grenadier I" exercises are being held, as well as "Ocean Venture-84," which have mobilized thousands of soldiers and hundreds of war vessels and planes of the United States military power.

This U.S. policy in the area has been aimed at turning Honduras into something more than logistical support for the counterrevolutionary bands who attack and carry terror into Nicaragua. The idea has been to turn Honduras into a springboard for the U.S. aggression against Central America, particularly Nicaragua.

With this in mind, 16 air bases and landing strips have been refurbished and extended in six Honduran departments since 1981. Three troop training centers have been built and the road between Las Trojes and Cifuentes has been rebuilt and extended, right to the Nicaraguan border.

The U.S. Government has involved Honduras in its warmongering policy. It has also tried to do likewise in other countries of the area, such as Costa Rica, where, behind the back of its highest authorities and with the cooperation of some officials, even through bribery, the CIA has set up the counterrevolutionaries' rearguard. Recent events such as the attacks against San Juan del Norte, El Castillo, Penas Blancas, and [words indistinct] well-supplied mercenaries, confirm the U.S. determination to authorize this aggression.

The permanent presence of U.S. troops in the area, the frequent violation of the airspace of countries such as Nicaragua, the threatening presence of destructive vessels and war equipment near our coasts have served to launch terrorist attacks, such as the mining of our ports.

Militarism, the occupation of Honduras, the increased intervention in El Salvador, and the lack of respect for Costa Rica's neutrality are some of the factors that determine and cause tension in the area and tend to mask the generalization of the war of aggression against Nicaragua. In view of the military confrontation and the official U.S. Government policy of terrorism, the Sandinist popular revolution has (?begun) a policy of permanent actions for the peaceful solution of the conflicts, international peace, and negotiation and dialogue.

We have promoted and supported the establishment of a new, more just international order. We have also promoted and supported Latin American unity for the defense of our interests. In various forums, we have presented our stance regarding the various problems that affect the world, from a nonaligned, intensely Latin American perspective. We have answered provocations from Honduras 91 times by sending notes protesting the logistical support to counterrevolutionary forces and even the Honduran Army and Air Force involvement in aggression actions against Nicaragua.

On 25 different occasions we have explained to Costa Rica the need to adopt measures to check the activities of counterrevolutionary groups in its territory. We have sent 18 protest notes to the U.S. Government for its direct responsibility in the destructive, terrorist, and criminal actions carried out against our country.

Nicaragua has also (?actively) promoted the Contadora Group's efforts to achieve peace in Central America, participating in all the meetings held at the various levels. So far our country is the only one that has presented specific peace proposals within that group. We have urged and once again urge the Central American heads of state to hold bilateral and multilateral meetings to seek a Central American response to the problems currently affecting us and which the U.S. Administration irresponsibly manipulates, certain as it is that blood is not being shed in the United States but in Central America.

We have given authentic proof of the fact that we will do anything to avoid war. We have taken and will continue to take every step needed to preserve the life and security of our people and the other Central American peoples, in accordance with the principle of respect for sovereignty, self-determination, and the security of our nation.

Now that the CIA is trying to cause a break in the relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua -- making up attacks and launching a reckless press campaign through the Costa Rican media -- we urge the Costa Rican people to defend the principle of neutrality proclaimed by President Monge and not to allow themselves to be manipulated by the CIA plan that seeks to militarily occupy Costa Rica in order to further tighten the military cordon around Nicaragua.

The CIA has already occupied part of Costa Rica to attack the Nicaraguan people with its ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] mercenaries. This causes tension along the common border and might lead to incidents outside the control of the decisions made and policies adopted by the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments. This is exactly what the CIA wants: a pretext, a detonator, that will serve its interests, causing a break in our relations and leading to the occupation of Costa Rica, so they can continue developing and escalating their criminal plans against Nicaragua.

REAGAN SAID LAUNCHING 'PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN'

PA081815 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] According to observers, the propaganda campaign that President Reagan has launched against Nicaragua is evidence of the beginning of a large-scale aggression against Nicaraguan sovereignty. For this reason, Washington has created a planned attack on Costa Rica -- allegedly prepared in Nicaragua -- in an effort to militarize the border between the two countries and orchestrate actions against the Sandinist revolution.

The Reagan administration will also use emergency powers to give military assistance to Costa Rica if Congress does not approve the executive branch's request in this regard.

Meanwhile, Costa Rican political figures are advocating a dialogue for understanding between the two nations in view of the diversionist campaign against Nicaragua under way in Costa Rica.

PASTORAL EASTER LETTER ON RECONCILIATION

PA052235 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Apr 84 pp 1, 10

[Text] COMMUNIQUE

The Communications Media Directorate of the Interior Ministry announces the following:

In accordance with higher orders, the publication of the Pastoral Letter issued by the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference on 22 April 1984 has been authorized, despite the fact that it contains violations of our country's laws and expresses positions in open confrontation with the revolution.

In the final analysis, let our people be the ones who judge the positions taken by the Church Hierarchy.

Issued in the city of Managua on 23 April 1984.

Communications Media Directorate - MINT [Interior Ministry]

PASTORAL LETTER ON RECONCILIATION FROM THE NICARAGUAN BISHOPS

To the priests and deacons of our dioceses,
to the members of religious orders and nuns,
to the catechists and delegates of the Word,
to the brothers in the lay apostolate movements,
to the directors, teachers, and students of catholic schools,
to all our beloved faithful,
GRACE AND PEACE FROM GOD, OUR FATHER, AND JESUS CHRIST, THE LORD.

Dear Brothers:

In solemnly celebrating Easter, the definitive demonstration of the love of God for men through redemption, we invite you to participate more fully in the spiritual wealth of this Holy Year, which, by the special concession of Pope John Paul II, will be extended in Nicaragua until 17 June 1984, the date of the feast of the Holy Trinity.

This circumstance, along with the urgent need we have in our society for a sincere fraternal reconciliation through individual conversion, moves us to address this exhortation to you.

I. DOCTRINAL PART.

1. Sin, the root of all evil

When sin entered the world, all things stirred from their deepest roots, the earth was filled with thorns, civilizations and institutions became obsolete, man himself rebelled against his fellow men, and the empire of tyranny and death began. (Compare Gen. 3: 16-19 4: 7-8).

Man, created in the image of God (Gen. 1: 26), refused either to recognize or glorify him. Instead, he was blinded by his own vain thoughts and his heart was darkened (Rom. 1: 21). There were even men who, like Satan, disguised themselves as angels of light in order to deceive other men and to lead them to perdition (Compare 2 Cor. 11: 14-15). Misunderstood anthropocentrism plunged man into radical slavery to sin.

2. The Redemption of Christ

Christ, with his death and resurrection, reconciled us with God, with ourselves, and with our brothers; he delivered us from the slavery of sin (Compare Col. 1: 20-22; 2 Cor. 5: 18) and entrusted to his Church the task of transmitting his message, his pardon, and his grace (Compare Mt. 28: 18-20; Mc. 7: 15-20).

For us, all of this should be a call to conversion: "...It must be the beginning of a radical change in the spirit, in the mind, and in life" (Compare John Paul II, Bull Open the Doors to the Redeemer, n. 5).

This conversion, which makes redemption in our individual and social life effective, has three aspects:

a) It is necessary to avoid personal sin, meaning every action that breaks our baptismal alliance with God.

b) Every attitude marked by sin must be uprooted from the heart; that is, every instance of habitual scorn, whether purposeful or not, for Christian principles and moral values.

c) It is necessary to put an end to social sins; that is, to any kind of participation in situations characterized by injustice and violence.

3. Sin after Redemption

However, a situation characterized by sin persists in the world following the redemption of Christ, because:

a) Man abuses his freedom and does not accept the grace of God.

b) Society has moved away from sanctification; it is losing its orientation toward God and does not take the Church, which is the universal sacrament of salvation, into consideration because it regards it as an alienating structure.

c) At times, an attempt is made to accept Christ and his doctrine while rejecting the Church, thus falling to the temptation to build "churches" without the groundwork laid by the apostles and their successors, the legitimate bishops.

d) It is forgotten that coexistence can be based only upon a proper concept of the individual as an intelligent, free, religious being with rights and duties that spring from his own nature (Compare John XXIII, Encyclical Pacem in Terris, n. 9-10).

e) Man's materialistic concepts distort the person and doctrine of Christ, reduce man to merely material categories devoid of spiritual content, and the individual is left subject to material forces that are called the "dialetic of history." And man, devoid of God and of himself, becomes disoriented, without points of moral and religious reference, without transcendental content, unsure and violent.

II. OUR REALITY

1. The situation of sin in the world

In his message for the 17th World Drive for Prayer for Peace on 1 January 1984, Pope John Paul II expressed his concern over the current world situation, which we also share: "Peace is truly precarious and injustice abounds. Implacable wars are being waged in many countries and are being prolonged despite mounting deaths, mourning, and ruin, without any apparent advance toward a solution...it is often the innocent who must pay, while passions are inflamed and the risk is run that fear might lead to extreme situations."

2. In Nicaragua

a) The situation of war

Our fatherland is also afflicted by a painful situation of war among Nicaraguans, and the consequences of this situation cannot be more painful:

-- Many Nicaraguan men and young people are dying on the battlefields;

-- Many others look at their future with fear that their lives will be ended prematurely;

-- Materialistic and atheist education is undermining the consciences of the children and young people;

-- Numerous families are being divided by political rivalries;

-- The suffering of mothers who have lost their children -- to which we should respond with respect, comfort, and aid -- is being manipulated to incite hatred and the desire for vengeance;

-- The peasants and Indians, whom the Church loves diligently, suffer and live in anxiety; a great number of them are forced to abandon their homes in search of the peace and tranquillity that they cannot find.

Certain communications media are using a language of hatred that favors the spirit of violence.

b) The Church

Although small, a part of our Church has forsaken Church unity and has submitted to the guidelines of a materialistic ideology; it sows confusion within and outside our borders with a campaign that exalts its own ideas and slanders legitimate pastors and the faithful who are united with them. Censorship of the communications media makes it impossible to explain the various positions and offer other viewpoints.

3. Foreign Interference

Foreign powers are taking advantage of our situation to foment economic and ideological exploitation. They view us as objects for the support of their power, but they do not respect our individual beings, our history, our culture, and our right to decide our own fate.

As a result, most Nicaraguans live in fear for the present and unsure of their future; they experience deep frustration and demand peace and freedom, but their voices are not heard, silenced by the war-oriented propaganda produced by each side.

4. The Cause of These Ills

This situation has its foundations in the sin committed by each and every one of us: In injustice and oppression; in exploitative avarice, political ambition, and the abuse of power; in contempt for moral and religious values and the lack of respect for the dignity of the individual; and in the oblivion, abandonment, and negation of God.

III. THE RESPONSE OF THE CHURCH

1. Conversion and Reconciliation

The church wants and ardently promotes peace and tranquillity. It believes that there is only one path to the achievement of this goal: CONVERSION; that is, we must all turn our eyes and hearts to God, our Father who, through Christ, shows us the true meaning of reconciliation, forgiveness, and peace.

"It is not only one's conduct that must be converted, but the orientation of one's life, 'the heart.' At the community level, it is important that we ask questions as individuals, as groups, and as social environments; not only as victims but as architects of certain collective departures from God's Plan, in order to undertake, as a community, God's Plan, which will constructively influence the history of humanity." (Compare Pontificial Doc Commissio Iustitia et Pax. Rome, 30 Sep 1983).

The entire universe is the object of redemption, as it too reveals the Glory of God (Rom. 1: 20), and it should be sanctified and dedicated to God (compare Vatican Council II, Const. Lumen Gentium, N. 34). The resurrected Christ is at the center of history and the world, to lead them toward full maturity and toward definitive liberation from all evil forces (Compare Vatican Council II, Constitution Lumen Gentium, N. 48).

3. [number as published] The Dialogue

In order for social peace to be possible, the path toward it must necessarily pass through dialogue; a sincere dialogue that seeks truth and goodness. "One that is a specific and generous offering of a meeting of good wills, rather than possible justification for continuing to foment divisions and violence" (John Paul II. Greeting to Nicaragua. 4-III-83).

It is not honest to always justify internal aggression and violence with the attacks from abroad.

It is useless to blame things entirely on past evils, unless the deficiencies of the present are also acknowledged.

All Nicaraguans, both inside the country and abroad, without any discrimination based on ideology, class, or party position, should participate in this dialogue. Moreover, we believe that those Nicaraguans who have risen in arms against the government should also participate in this dialogue. There can be no possible solution unless this is done, and our people, particularly the poorest sectors, will continue to suffer and die.

The dialogue that we are suggesting is not a tactical truce intended to strengthen positions so that the struggle may continue, but a sincere effort to respond, through the search for timely solutions, to the anguish, pain, tiredness, and fatigue of the many who yearn for peace. There are so many who want to live, to be reborn from among the ashes, to seek the warmth of the smiles of children, free of terror and in a climate of democratic coexistence.

The terrible chain of reactions, characteristic of the friend/enemy dialectic, is illuminated with the word of God, who demands love, even for our enemies, and forgiveness. It is urgent that we go from distrust and aggressiveness to respect and concord in a climate that permits loyal and objective reflection on existing situations and the prudent search for remedies. Reconciliation is the remedy (Compare John Paul II, Peace and Reconciliation. Pope's speech in El Salvador, 6 March 1983).

Without the chance to confirm and objectively acknowledge the reality of the events that afflict our people ideologically, systematically, and militarily, we would not be, in a true and Christian manner, willing to seek reconciliation on behalf of our entire living, authentic nation.

And since the freedom of expression is a vital part of the dignity of the individual and therefore indispensable to the nation's welfare -- as the nation progresses when there is the freedom to initiate new ideas -- the right to the free expression of one's own ideas must be acknowledged.

The big powers involved in this problem for ideological or economic reasons must free us, the Nicaraguans, of all coercion.

CONCLUSION

If we want our conversion to have a specific impact on the life of the national community, we must strive to lead a life worthy of the Gospel (Compare Phil. 1: 27; Eph. 4: 1), cast aside all lies, all harmful and offensive words, all ire and scandal, all wickedness; we must be benevolent and forgive generously, as God forgave us through Christ (Compare Eph. 4: 25, 32; Col. 3: 12, 14).

It is urgent that we value everyone's life as a gift of God; that we help our young people find the sense and value of their lives and prepare to assume their future functions in society; that we forgive enemies or adversaries, facilitate the return of those who have left their country and receive them with a generous spirit, release those who suffer in prison because of ideological differences and create a climate of friendship and peace that makes social coexistence possible.

"In this grand task of national reconciliation and the achievement of peace, neither that fundamental cell of society, the family," nor respect for its rights, "can be forgotten" (Compare Gaudium et Spes. No. 52, cited by John Paul II, in his address to the bishops of El Salvador, 24 February, 1984).

May the Holy Virgin, who assumed her painful function as co-redeemer with exemplary integrity, give us the strength needed to assume our Christian duty of love and peace.

And may the Lord of Peace grant us all, always and in all areas, the desired peace and tranquillity (Compare 2 Thes. 3: 16).

Issued in Managua, on 22 April, Easter, 1984.

(To be read and published in the usual manner.)

EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF NICARAGUA

Msgr Pablo A. Vega, bishop of Jigalpa, president; Msgr Bosco Vivas Robelo, auxiliary bishop of Maragua, secretary; Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo, archbishop of Managua; Msgr Julian Barni, bishop of Leon; Msgr Leovigildo Lopez Fitoria, bishop of Granada; Msgr Ruben Lopez Ardon, bishop of Esteli, Msgr Salvador Schlaeffer B., bishop of Bluefields; Msgr Carlos Santi, bishop of Matagalpa; Msgr Pedro L. Vilchez V., prelate of Jinotega

ALFONSO ROBELO DISCUSSES ARDE MILITARY STRATEGY

PY050030 Buenos Aires GENTE in Spanish 3 May 84 pp 34, 35, 36, 37

[Interview with ARDE political representative Alfonso Robelo by GENTE correspondent Bruno Passarelli in Rome -- date not given]

[Text] [Passarelli] What is the significance of San Juan del Norte falling into Sandinist hands?

[Robelo] The information I have is piecemeal. But it is not true that we are retreating. It made no sense for our men to stay in a city destroyed by bombs. The important thing is that a zone has been liberated: Cangrejero, Jalova, and Providencia.

[Passarelli] What is ARDE's military strategy?

[Robelo] It has not changed with the latest events. Our plan continues to be the same: to liberate 1,000 square kilometers in the country's southwest zone, and from there to push upwards to the Honduran border.

[Passarelli] Does ARDE rely only on a military strategy to defeat the Managua regime? There will be elections in Nicaragua next November.

[Robelo] Ever since ARDE was created in September 1982, we have sought a political and peaceful solution. The armed struggle was and continues to be the ultimate option because the elections announced by the regime are just a farce. Nevertheless, we are still open to seeking political solutions in order to test the regime's true will for a real opening. If that will exists, we will go to the elections and leave the war.

[Passarelli] What does ARDE ask of the Sandinista regime?

[Robelo] We want six conditions to be met in order for the elections to be held next November: Exclude no one from the electoral process; stop identifying the FSLN [Sandinista Front for National Liberation] with the Nicaraguan State, and the Army with the State; have the Contadora Group supervise the elections; reestablish all civil liberties; define the rules of the electoral process clearly; and eliminate institutionalized repression as well as foreign interference.

[Passarelli] Does ARDE plan to eventually strike a political and military alliance with the Nicaraguan Democratic Force which operates in the north and to which Somozista connections are attributed?

[Robelo] ARDE seeks a national convergence as an absolute priority. But this convergence is impossible with the FDR as long as it keeps former Somoza men in its key positions of military leadership. The problem is different with FDR civilian leaders. Some of them are magnificent men who fought with courage and honesty against Somoza...

[Passarelli] Have you pressured the FDR to get rid of those elements?

[Robelo] Yes. We have asked that at least officers of Somoza's National Guard, who are accused of corruption and crimes against human rights, be relieved from military command. But we have had no success so far.

[Passarelli] It is said that the United States is behind the FDR. What assistance do you receive from the United States.

[Robelo] None. We would, however, accept assistance, but Washington says it cannot be given because of budgetary problems. I ask myself whether it is denied because the North Americans cannot afford to provide assistance, or because they consider us to be truly revolutionaries, which we are. And they know that we will not accept U.S. orders, nor will we accept orders from any foreign power.

[Passarelli] Sectors of the European left have charged that with the armed struggle you are favoring an eventual U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua...

[Robelo] That is not so. Not at all. We are exercising the same right of rebellion which the Nicaraguans exercised against the despotism of Somoza. A U.S. military intervention would be unnecessary and, should it take place, we would firmly oppose it. ARDE truly and sincerely represents a third way, neither the U.S. nor the Soviet way.

[Passarelli] Do you truly believe in the possibility of a military victory? Apparently there are insurmountable difficulties to decisively hit the Sandinista forces. Proof of this is what happened in San Juan del Norte.

[Robelo] Our growth has been encouraging in the last 11 months. From 300 men in May 1983, we have grown to more than 8,000 men now. As we approach the more populated areas, our forces increase more widely and rapidly. But we must not forget that we are facing a 100,000-man army. A victory would result from a terrible bloodbath. This is why we prefer a political solution. But if this political solution proves impossible, we expect our ranks to continue growing even further. No one should forget that economic difficulties and lack of food supplies are fueling popular discontent in Nicaragua.

[Passarelli] What do you think of the French proposal to remove the mines you have planted in the Nicaraguan ports of Corinto in the Pacific Ocean and of Bluff in the Caribbean Sea?

[Robelo] This is not an impartial offer, and it is unacceptable for us. For instance, I did not see any French reaction recently when Miskito Indians were taken to concentration camps in Nicaragua. We will immediately suspend the mining of ports, but only if the Sandinist Government agrees to a joint discussion of conditions for the upcoming elections. Furthermore, the aim of those military operations is to block the massive weapons shipments from Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and Cuba for the Sandinist Government.

[Passarelli] You are accused of hindering normal trade with such actions...

[Robelo] That trade can continue without trouble through the ports of Costa Rica and of other Central American countries.

[Passarelli] Why does the Sandinist Government hold the CIA responsible for the mining of those ports and refuse to recognize ARDE as having carried out the operation?

[Robelo] The reason is very simple: Managua does not want to recognize that Nicaraguans themselves are fighting against this new Stalin-type dictatorship, which is oppressing our people. ARDE does not receive money from the CIA or from any other foreign source. The mines placed at the Ports of Corinto and Bluff were bought in the European black market.

[Passarelli] Who then finances ARDE?

[Robelo] We have the support of people inside and outside Nicaragua, and of solidarity committees in Latin America, Europe, and the United States.

[Passarelli] But ARDE does not seem to find much receptivity in Europe...

[Robelo] The position of some European governments and politicians deserves our strong criticism. We cannot accept Europe condemning U.S. intervention in Central America, while keeping silent about other interventions, especially Soviet-Cuban intervention.

[Passarelli] Why did the Socialist International refuse membership to ARDE?

[Robelo] That is another proof of what I said before. We cannot but reiterate our annoyance with that attitude. While our request was turned down on the one hand, on the other support is expressed for the FSLN even without it being a member.

[Passarelli] Is it true that during your recent trip to the United States some U.S. congressmen promised to pressure the Reagan administration to cut assistance to the FDR which includes former Somoza men?

[Robelo] That's right. Several congressmen, both Republican and Democrat, assured me that both Congress and government will suspend assistance to the FDR provided conditions in Nicaragua make possible a normal electoral process, with respect for freedom of the press, and without excluding anyone.

[Passarelli] Robelo, what is ARDE in reality?

[Robelo] We are not Sandinists or Somozists. We are a heterogeneous movement of the democratic left, a movement that deeply believes in democracy.

CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ SPEAKS TO MINREX WORKERS

FL041920 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] The 26 July 30th anniversary flag was given today to Ministry of Foreign Relations [MINREX] workers for having fulfilled their work plans and socialist endeavors. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Politburo member and vice president of the Council of State; Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate Politburo member; and other members of the Central Committee were present at the ceremony.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] Each MINREX worker today feels a deep happiness for having achieved, in a political and human sense, full victory for us all. The steps this flag has taken to reach this moment have surely resounded happily in each MINREX worker's heart. [applause] [end recording]

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES ELECTED AT MEETING

FL071440 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The 169 municipal assemblies of Cuba's People's Government have been formed, thus beginning the fourth term of office. The municipal delegates, elected by direct and secret ballot, met in each municipality. The meetings were presided over by the oldest and the two youngest [in age] delegates. Members of the municipal executive committee and the provincial assembly delegates of the People's Government were elected at the meeting. The provincial assembly delegates will meet on Sunday, 13 May, to form provincial level government organs and elect the provincial executive committees.

INTERNATIONAL CEMA MEETING ON SOLAR POWER OPENS

FL071912 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The 8th meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries on CEMA problems on the elaboration of new, more effective methods of using solar power for chemical, ionic, and geothermal power in electrical, thermal, and mechanical matters opened this morning in Havana. This is the first time that the meeting is being held in Cuba. Experts from the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Hungary, the GDR, Mongolia, and Czechoslovakia will be present at the meeting. The working sessions will be held at the central offices of Cuba's Academy of Sciences. On 11 May, the delegates will go to the heroic City of Santiago de Cuba, where the final protocol will be signed and an experimental plant will be inaugurated.

UN POPULATION EXPERT SALAS CONCLUDES VISIT

FL041414 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Rafael Salas, executive director of the UN Fund for Activities in Population Matters [Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para las Actividades en Materia de Poblacion], stressed that he is concluding his visit to Havana much impressed by Cuba's progress in its population policy. It is an exemplary system that I hope will be applied in other nations, the UN leader added during a press conference he held in the Cuban capital.

Regarding the International Population Conference which will be held in Mexico City this August, Rafael Salas said that about 130 member nations will participate, and that recommendations will be made for the implementation of the plan approved in Bucharest a decade ago. Salas said that the plan adopted in the Romanian capital for world action on population matters has been a guide for all countries and it is now desired to evaluate population growth.

YUGOSLAV MAGAZINE CRITICIZED FOR VIEWS ON ANGOLA

WA081325 Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 13 Apr 84 p 58

[Editorial: "Intrigues of POLITIKA"]

[Text] There are some people who specialize in promoting friendship and others who try to specialize in spreading intrigue. The leaders of Cuba and Yugoslavia hold broad communications among one another; their mutual visits and their meetings in third countries serve the friendly aims of their parties and governments. Economic relations are increasing.

There are, of course, different ways of viewing international situations, but they are aired appropriately in an atmosphere in which the intention to bring views together prevails. Nevertheless, you have POLITIKA, the Yugoslav publication, stubbornly bent on continuing its work of intrigue. After a brief period of peace and quiet, POLITIKA has gone back to its old ways and is apparently trying to make up for lost time. POLITIKA published two recent articles regarding the Angola debate in which it tries to throw wood on the fire of Yankee accusations. According to these, the Cuban internationalist effort in Angola, which earned the approval of President Tito, among others, and the enthusiastic support of the Nonaligned Summit in Sri Lanka, is nothing more and nothing less than a Cuban service to the Soviet Union's foreign policy. It is not enough for POLITIKA to use its own low level literature; rather, it resorts to that of the North American imperialists themselves, reproducing along this line an article from the LOS ANGELES TIMES. Intrigue, like lies, won't get you very far.

POLITIKA thinks that it is doing nothing more than exercising freedom of the press, but there are ways that are more beneficial and in greater agreement with the Yugoslav line, which POLITIKA supposedly defends.

HAVANA REPORTS ON U.S. MILITARY MANEUVERS

PA090346 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] The U.S. Army has reported that the "Ocean-Venture 84" exercise has ended successfully. It was held 20 April-6 May in the Caribbean and in Vieques, Puerto Rico, with the participation of 45,000 troops, 40 ships, and more than 300 planes. The 82d Airborne Division and the 26th Amphibious Unit also participated in the exercise. In October 1983, these two units participated in the invasion of Grenada.

It was also reported that the naval exercise called "Guard Maneuvers [Maniobras de Vigilancia]" is also over. It was held by the United States, Honduras, and El Salvador in the Gulf of Fonseca.

The "Grenadier I" joint maneuvers involving the U.S. and the Honduran Armies will continue in Honduras until 30 June, it was reported. Some 1,000 U.S. troops and 3,000 Honduran soldiers are participating in these exercises, which will now enter their most active phase, according to sources in Tegucigalpa.

COSTA RICA TO SEEK CONTADORA MEDIATION

PA081809 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Costa Rican Vice President Armando Arauz has discarded the possibility of his country resorting to the OAS to discuss its border problems with Nicaragua. Arauz told the daily LA NACION, which is published in San Jose, that the Costan Rican Government has initiated diplomatic efforts aimed at having a Contadora Group mission go to the border area.

This is how the Costa Rican vice president has responded to U.S. insistence that the recent border incidents on the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua be discussed at the OAS. An eventual OAS mediation in this matter has been rejected by broad Costa Rican sectors, including youth organizations of the governing National Liberation Party. This group demanded that the government abide by its proclaimed neutrality, rejected the sending of U.S. soldiers to Costa Rica, and condemned war in Central America.

It has also been reported in San Jose that former Costa Rican President Jose Figueres, former minister Jose Rafael Cordero, and Communist leader Manuel Mora Valverde have called for a dialogue with Nicaragua to solve bilateral problems and promote detente.

U.S., FMLN REACTIONS TO SALVADORAN ELECTION

U.S. Government Pleased

FL081500 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1154 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] The U.S. Government has expressed pleasure at the still unconfirmed triumph of Christian Democrat Napoleon Duarte in last Sunday's presidential elections in El Salvador. Although final voting figures were not yet available, the White House yesterday said that Duarte's victory will give greater strength to Ronald Reagan's strategy in the Central American region.

Press agencies report from El Salvador that the Christian Democratic Party has said its candidate in the presidential elections, Jose Napoleon Duarte, is running ahead of his opponent, Roberto D'Aubuisson.

It has been reported that 94 percent of the votes have been counted and [words indistinct] is maintaining a 55 percent lead. Meanwhile, President Ronald Reagan has expressed satisfaction at Duarte's presumed victory. Analysts say the presence of the special presidential envoy in San Salvador confirms U.S. support of the Christian Democratic candidate in the rigged Salvadoran elections.

The other candidate, Roberto D'Aubuisson, who has been linked to the death squads, stated that although his party -- the ultrarightest ARENA party -- loses the elections, it would have to be recognized as an important political force.

FMLN Critical

PA080525 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 7 May 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The FMLN of El Salvador has released a document stating that the results of Sunday's runoff elections will be imposed within the struggle between the two candidates behind the backs of the Salvadoran people, who have never truly elected their rulers.

The runoff elections, manipulated by Washington, are yet another farce and no matter what government comes out on top, it will follow the orders of Yankee imperialism. The FMLN document recalls that U.S. President Ronald Reagan confirmed this when he said that it is necessary to support any president, even if he is the result of a coup d'etat.

The FMLN said that Washington has failed in its attempt to improve the Salvadoran Government's image. There was no voting in 86 of the 261 municipalities in El Salvador in the 25 March election, and it was demonstrated that the rebel forces effectively control one-third of the nation's territory, where units of popular government already exist and function. These have emerged in a truly democratic manner.

The FMLN said that the political course imposed by the United States in the Salvadoran conflict has reached the point where President Ronald Reagan must choose between agreement with the guerrillas' proposal for dialogue and negotiations and massive and direct intervention in the country.

The FMLN reaffirmed its rejection of the U.S. mining of Nicaraguan ports and said that Reagan has suffered a harsh political setback as a result, although the U.S. veto of the UN Security Council resolution and its arrogant rejection of the decision by the international court at The Hague demonstrate the White House's contempt for international law and constitute a serious threat to peace.

The Salvadoran guerrilla forces added that the dismissal of General Gustavo Alvarez as chief of the Armed Forces in Honduras caused political inconveniences for Washington, despite the fact that the U.S. ambassador in Tegucigalpa declared that he had the necessary means of reestablishing his control over the Honduran Army.

The FMLN forces believe that this is an opportunity to find solutions that can lead to peace and to ensure future cooperation and brotherhood among the peoples of Central America. Finally, the Salvadoran FMLN condemned the increasing U.S. interference in Central America and charged that the bill submitted by Ronald Reagan to the U.S. Congress on carrying out military operations described as preventive action against terrorism is an excuse to legitimize the state terrorism that Washington itself has been implementing.

REPORTS ON RECENT FIGHTING IN EL SALVADOR

Guerrillas Attack San Miguel

PA080615 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] FMLN troops attacked San Miguel, the third most important Salvadoran city, this Sunday, inflicting numerous casualties on the regime's Army. Radio Venceremos, the voice of the FMLN, reported that the guerrillas are still holding positions around the urban center and warned the people throughout San Miguel Department to avoid travelling on highways in eastern El Salvador, because they have been mined by rebel detachments. Fierce clashes continue in towns near San Miguel, including El Cuco and Santa Rosa, while in Chinameca the rebels are defeating the tyranny's troops.

In San Vicente Department, rebel columns clashed with government battalions near the San Vicente Volcano and in San Sebastian. On the Las Canas farm in San Vicente, FMLN fighters inflicted 10 casualties on the enemy troops. Meanwhile, other reports from San Salvador state that a military detachment was attacked near Sensuntepeque, the capital of Cabanas Department.

In addition, several sources have confirmed that two military helicopters carrying U.S. officials and newsmen were the target of insurgent fire in eastern El Salvador. The helicopters, which were damaged as they were about to land in San Miguel, were carrying U.S. observers sent to witness the Salvadoran elections and Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to El Salvador. No casualties were reported.

FMLN Attacks El Paisnal

PA070324 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] FMLN troops, using 90-mm cannon and rifles, attacked and destroyed the military garrison in El Paisnal, San Salvador Department. One soldier was killed as a result. The Army, after putting up almost no resistance, fled from the battlefield. Other FMLN troops ambushed a military detachment en route from Zacatecoluca to Tecoluca, killing several Army troops in the clash.

On Saturday morning, the Salvadoran rebels dynamited the electric power substation at (Chansuelas), causing blackouts in the eastern Departments of San Vicente, Morazan, San Miguel, and Usulutan. All of eastern El Salvador is suffering the effects of a cessation of transportation service following a report on the rebel radio station Radio Venceremos that the guerrillas had mined highways to prevent the movement of military convoys.

Meanwhile, the Salvadoran regime's Armed Forces have stepped up their nationwide operations to guarantee this Sunday's second round of the U.S.-organized electoral farce. In San Salvador, Colonel Ricardo Cienfuegos, chief of the Armed Forces Press Committee, said: We must be honest and admit that the guerrillas are capable of carrying out military operations wherever they wish.

Fighting in Cabanas

FL051254 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Just 24 hours before the Salvadoran electoral farce is to take place, there was intense fighting between the regime's Army and rebel forces in several locations in the country, especially in the northern Department of Cabanas. The news media reported that among the casualties inflicted by the guerrillas on government troops in Cabanas was the commander of one of the garrisons of the town of Ilobasco. It was also reported that numerous government troops were detailed to Cabanas and other departments in an attempt to stop the activities of the Salvadoran patriots.

Meanwhile, FMLN commandos increased their control over different stretches of the main roads of eastern El Salvador and other regions of that Central America nation.

Pre-Election Fighting

FL052020 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] The FMLN-FDR has sent a letter to the Lisbon conference on Nicaragua and peace stating that any proposal presented for resolving the Central American conflict should take into account El Salvador's problems. At the conference, Salvadoran revolutionary organizations have said that they are directly confronted with the U.S. Government's hostility, as shown by the United States supporting groups who oppose the interests of the Central American peoples.

Meanwhile, the Salvadoran military command today ordered important troop mobilizations because of the second round of presidential elections being held tomorrow.

Large military contingents were sent to Morazan, La Union, San Miguel, and Chalatenango Provinces and to Ilobasco and Tejutepeque Municipalities, 60 km from San Salvador.

The genocidal Army has been constantly harassed by guerrilla forces in the last few days. The guerrillas have been defeating soldiers with superior weapons. It was recently reported that a guerrilla commando team blew up four power lines in Chalatenango Province, leaving half of the population of the province without electricity.

U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Thomas Pickering presented the Salvadoran military with four evacuation helicopters. Pickering presented the equipment to Salvadoran Minister of Defense Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova at an Air Force base near San Salvador.

Clashes in Cuscatlan, Cabanas

PA050439 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Fierce clashes between guerrillas and Army troops have taken place in past few hours in the Salvadoran departments of Cabanas and Cuscatlan. The most fierce clashes were reported in Tejutepeque, Jutiapa, Cinquera, (Ilocallo), (Chiquitepe), El Trilladero, and Concepcion. The rebels attacked the regime's military positions with heavy artillery fire in Sensuntepeque, the capital city of Cabanas Department. Meanwhile, the Army's artillery continued to fire on extensive areas of Cabanas Department, where the regime's forces are trying to expel FMLN forces from their positions. The military high command reported that it had deployed three of its elite battalions to the Cabanas and Cuscatlan Departments. In addition, it also deployed the 1st Infantry Brigade to disrupt rebel gatherings detected by U.S. spy planes.

In Morazan, La Union, and San Miguel Departments, insurgent commandos occupied stretches of several highways including the Coastal Highway and prevented the flow of vehicles on those highways for over 3 hours.

Other reports state that the United States gave a new helicopter gunship to the Salvadoran regime, in addition to 14 others delivered last April.

NICARAGUA REPULSES ATTACK FROM COSTA RICA

FL081346 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1102 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Managua -- A Panamanian mercenary and 14 counterrevolutionaries were killed in an attack on the Nicaraguan border post at Palo Arco, located in the southern Department of Rio San Juan. Subcommander Roberto (Sanchez) reported that about 100 counterrevolutionaries from Costa Rica initiated the attack but were driven back by forces of the Sandinist People's Army.

REPORTS SAY 36 CONTRAS KILLED IN NICARAGUA

FL071826 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Managua -- Official sources have reported that last week's fighting between the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and CIA-paid mercenaries has left a toll of 36 invaders and 2 soldiers dead. The fighting took place in several locations in northern, central, and southeastern Nicaragua.

The reports state that EPS troops annihilated 19 counterrevolutionaries in the El Zapote area, 7 km southeast of Quilali in Nueva Segovia Province on 2 May. That same day in Siawas, central Zelaya Province, one soldier died and seven were wounded. It was not reported whether there were casualties among the mercenaries.

On 3 May, Sandinist forces fought several battles against the enemy in El Coyolar, 3 km southeast of San Sebastian de Yali, Jinotega Province. Casualties included two invaders and one EPS soldier killed. That same day, during fighting at a place 22 km southeast of (Nueva Guinea), in the southern part of Zelaya Province, five counterrevolutionaries died.

PARTY LEADERS ARRESTED IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PA081919 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] The Dominican police have arrested approximately 100 opposition leaders in recent hours. The news media has seen this as a preventive measure in view of the possibility of new demonstrations in the next few days against the government's economic policies. Two of the arrested persons are Lido Cadet, secretary general of the Dominican Liberation Party [PLD] and Rafael Taveras, leader of the Front of the Dominican Left. The police also arrested leaders of the Reformist Party and of labor and peasant organizations.

Two weeks ago there were big demonstrations in the most important Dominican cities to reject the high cost of living and a recent government agreement with the IMF. The demonstrations were severely repressed by the Army and the police; 200 persons died and more than 1,000 were injured.

WORKERS SCHEDULE NEW PROTEST DRIVE IN CHILE

PA080528 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] A new protest drive against the military regime will be held on 11 May, the National Workers Command of Chile has reported in Santiago. Trade union leader Federico Mojica said that the primary objective of the 11 May activities will be to demand that a solution be found once and for all to the country's social and economic problems, which, he said, are dramatic and are growing worse every day. At a news conference, Mojica blamed Pinochet's regime for the eventual outcome of the hunger strike that was undertaken 8 days ago by mineworkers from the El Teniente copper mine, in the city of Rancagua. The 7 workers were dismissed 8 months ago along with 400 other workers for participating in trade union activities.

COLOMBIAN COMMUNISTS, REBELS ON LARA MURDER

PA052021 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The Communist Party of Colombia has issued a statement in Bogota condemning Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla's murder. This crime seeks to obstruct the peace process and democratic changes in the country, it said. The statement pointed out that undoubtedly the attack that cost Lara Bonilla's life was perpetrated by drug traffickers who are linked with ultraright forces that oppose the stabilization and democratization of Colombia's social life. The statement also said that the state of siege in Colombia will not help solve its internal problems; quite the contrary, it gives the opposition the possibility of reacting and unleashing a new campaign of repression against progressive forces.

The 19 April Movement, M-19, a Colombian guerrilla organization, issued a statement rejecting the assassination of Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, who was termed a man committed to the peace process and an ally of the purification and renewal of the country's political process. The document pointed out that the Colombian justice minister had agreed with the M-19 on changing the cease-fire into a national dialogue and changing the political opening into a wide and solid road toward the much-hoped-for peace.

COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES ARREST DRUG TRAFFICKERS

PA042156 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] In the past few hours Colombian authorities have arrested more than 100 persons involved in drug trafficking. It was learned that the police have raided farms and luxurious homes belonging to known Colombian drug traffickers. EL ESPECTADOR has said that a large operation has been mounted to arrest Pablo Escobar Gavidia and Carlos Lehder, two leading drug traffickers. The strong government action against these groups began following Monday's murder of Colombian Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla. Lara Bonilla was killed by two gunmen hired by the leaders of the drug trafficking groups.

PARAGUAYAN EXILES MARK STROESSNER RISE TO POWER

PA060415 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The executive committee of the Paraguayan National Pact in exile today issued a communique in remembrance of the bloody coup d'etat that brought General Alfredo Stroessner to power 30 years ago. The document declared that the Paraguayan dictator is the sole survivor of an era in history that has already passed, in which his name is associated with such tyrants as Batista, Trujillo, and Somoza. The communique also accuses the United States of training and outfitting the regime's repressive forces, despite hypocritical White House statements alleging concern about the human rights situation in Paraguay.

BLAST DAMAGES PIPELINE; TEACHERS STRIKE IN PERU

PA072122 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] At least 10 meters of the oil pipeline from the Peruvian Amazonas to the Port of Bayovar were damaged in an attack reportedly carried out by a group of armed men. It was also learned from Lima that a group of teachers have begun a strike, demanding wage increases.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL GROUP TO MEET IN PERU

PA062125 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] The Socialist International Committee for Latin America will meet in Lima on 7-8 May to discuss the area's political situation and foreign debt problem. The meeting will be attended by representatives of 18 political parties that are members of the Socialist International and 14 guest organizations, including the FSLN of Nicaragua and other regional as well as European organizations. Among the people who have promised to attend the Lima meeting are Guillermo Ungo, president of the FDR of El Salvador; Carlos Andres Perez, former president of Venezuela; and Anselmo Sule of the Chilean Radical Party.

SAHARANS CLAIM 750 MOROCCAN CASUALTIES IN BATTLE

PA062225 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Over 350 Moroccan soldiers, including several officers, were killed Wednesday during an attack launched by the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Sagui el Hamra and Rio de Oro] in northeastern Western Sahara, according to a report issued today by the Saharan Information Ministry. The communique states that another 400 Moroccan soldiers were injured during the battle at Garet El Moulat,. It adds that all 18 armored vehicles, 65 other vehicles, 25 cannons of various calibers, and other weapons were destroyed.

LABOR SECRETARY SAYS NO REASON TO STRIKE

FL081150 Santo Domingo Radio Popular in Spanish 0930 GMT 8 May 84

[Summary] The Dominican Republic's Secretary of State of Labor Pedro Franco Badia has said that the government has complied with a large part of the labor unions' demands and, therefore, there is no reason to strike. He also said the government had consented to most of the price demands and that prices on other items could not be lowered. Franco Badia told the five major labor unions to keep in mind that "in Chile and Poland, people cannot protest as they do here in the Dominican Republic."

General Strike Set for 9 May

FL081230 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] In the Dominican Republic, in Santo Domingo, more than 100 politicians and labor leaders were arrested in a series of raids in eight cities yesterday. A nation-wide general strike is being planned for this Wednesday to protest the high cost of living. According to the chief of the National Police, the arrests were part of the security measures being taken before the announcement of the strike. The coordinated arrest by the National Police came one week after food riots in the Dominican Republic, in which 54 people died, 200 were injured, and over 4300 arrested. Meanwhile, the nation's five major labor federations are making final plans for Wednesday's strike.

Capital 'Militarized'

PA090045 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0036 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] Santo Domingo, 8 May (EFE) -- The Dominican Government has militarized the capital city to forestall possible disorders and the looting of business establishments during the general strike that the country's labor unions have scheduled for tomorrow. Several armored vehicles with large caliber machineguns are patrolling the city streets and have taken up positions on the four bridges that provide access to Santo Domingo.

PRD GROUP PROPOSES CANDIDATES FOR 1986 ELECTIONS

FL051600 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 27 Apr 84 p 2

[Text] The Dominican Revolutionary Party's [PRD] under secretary general of the M-1 zone yesterday proposed that the PRD nominate Majluta and Jose Franciso Pena Gomez as candidates for president and vice president, respectively, in the 1986 election. In a public letter, Eduardo Merejo Coronado stressed the qualities that in his judgment, Majluta possessed. He said Majluta was the person with the most support inside the PRD party and leadership, and that he was the person who had the most support from persons who participate in Dominican politics. Merejo Coronado said that Pena Gomez, besides becoming vice president of the nation, should also assume responsibilities as foreign minister of the country. He added that "Pena Gomez would do government a great favor by being foreign minister because of his influence in international relations."

BARBADOS

ADAMS SAYS CASTRO MAY SEEK REVENGE OVER GRENADA

FL090050 Bridgetown CANA in English 2316 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 7 (CANA) -- Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams told Parliament here today he had been told that Cuban President Dr Fidel Castro may seek revenge on those responsible for Havana's "humiliation" last year in Grenada.

He also revealed that the bomb squad of the Royal Barbados Police Force yesterday searched his house following a bomb threat.

His comments were made in response to critics, whom he said had indicated their opposition to increased salaries for parliamentarians.

The House of Assembly was debating a bill that would increase the taxable emoluments of the prime minister, deputy prime minister, and other senior government officials.

Adams said Parliament, through a resolution, had concurred in Barbados' involvement with last October's U.S.-led invasion of Grenada to put down a leftwing military junta that had seized power killing Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and some Cabinet colleagues.

Cuba had been assisting the Grenada Government in the construction of a multi-million dollar international airport and about two dozen Cubans died during the invasion. More than 700 Cuban workers were expelled from the island after the invasion. The two countries had developed very close ties.

Adams said he was informed that Dr Castro was a vengeful person and sooner or later will attempt to take revenge on those responsible for Cuba's "humiliation" in Grenada. Adams did not give the source of his information.

The prime minister said that those persons who have had bomb threats and dynamite thrown at them could decide how much politicians should be paid.

LABOR UNION CALLS FOR MORE JOBS, HOUSING

FL072010 Bridgetown CANA in English 2043 GMT 6 May 84

[Excerpt] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 6 (CANA) -- The Barbados Workers Union (BWU) -- the island's biggest -- today called on the government to create more jobs and to spend a "sizeable portion of its revenue" on building houses for middle and lower income workers.

The union, which says it has a membership of 40,000, made the appeal as the island prepared for tomorrow's Labour Day celebrations.

It plans to seek support from employees -- during a big rally tomorrow -- for resolutions on employment, housing, and resistance to all attempts by employers to arbitrarily and unreasonably deprive workers of the right to work."

GRENADA

GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO RETURN EQUIPMENT TO CUBA

FL041652 Bridgetown CANA in English 2330 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, May 3 (CANA) -- Grenada's interim government has turned down a request from the Cuban Government to return to Havana all construction equipment Cuba was using to assist the ousted People's Revolutionary Government in the building of the Point Salines International Airport, government sources said today. The sources said the government's position was relayed to Cuban Charge d'Affaires Gaston Diaz before he left Grenada suddenly last March, apparently for home. The equipment includes tractors and heavy duty trucks.

The Army overthrow of the PRG last October, in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was gunned down, triggered a U.S.-led multinational invasion. Shortly afterwards, after the operation, Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon, who emerged as the sole constitutional authority after the operation, downgraded relations with Havana and expelled all Cuban officials except Diaz.

Work on the airport, towards which Cuba made a substantial contribution, halted during the upheaval and the interim government is hoping to have it completed by October this year.

The sources said the advisory council had a team of experts examine the contract Grenada had with Cuba regarding the equipment, and it found that the Grenada Government was legally the owners of the machinery. The experts, the source said, found out among other things that Grenada, which under the PRG was Cuba's closest ally in the English-speaking Caribbean had actually bought some of the equipment while other pieces were gifts from Havana. "It was clear to us that no where in the agreements signed for the equipment, which were given to us as gifts, that provisions were made for them to be returned or shipped back to Cuba," one source said.

Diaz had said that the question of the return of the equipment and whether the Grenada authorities would allow Cuban personnel to fly here to repair a damaged Cuban aeroplane were holding him back from going home.

The government sources estimated that Grenada had paid Cuba more than two million dollars (one EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) to help purchase the construction equipment for the airport. They said all the mobile equipment was licensed and insured with a local company and as such, the Grenada Government held a certificate of insurance as the owners of the equipment and not the Cubans.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

STEEL PRODUCTS PUT ON RESTRICTED IMPORT LIST

FL071930 Bridgetown CANA in English 1710 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, May 7 (CANA) -- The Trinidad and Tobago Government has placed restrictions on the importation of steel products. A notice published by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce told importers the open general licence system had been amended for the products and they were now on the country's negative list. Among the goods whose importation is restricted are -- angles, flats, squares, channels, sections sheets, and plates. Steel billets and rods are produced by the state-owned Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (ISCOTT) and at least one company produces downstream products from ISCOTT's goods.

ECUADOR

FEBRES CORDERO OUTLINES WORK PLAN AFTER VICTORY

PA081723 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] The economic crisis will probably be the main probem that the next government will face, Leon Febres Cordero said during his first news conference as winner of the second round presidential elections. He also promised that he will not devaluate the currency, that he will control public expenditures in real terms, and that he will respect the presence of the IMF in the renegotiation of Ecuador's foreign debt because that is what the international financial system demands. Febres Cordero also said that he will preserve social peace and work to improve the people's standard of living. He said that he will be tolerant of the criticisms of the opposition and that if these are justified, he will permit his government to change course in order to correct the denounced errors.

The winner of the second round considers himself to be a factor of confidence for the country's development, an aspect that, according to Febres Cordero, was demonstrated by the fact that his electoral victory resulted in a five-point decrease in the price of the dollar. The main points in the work plan of Ecuadoran president-elect Leon Febres Cordero are the following: The economic crisis will be my main concern. I will not devaluate the currency. I will control public expenditures in real terms. I will respect the presence of the IMF in the renegotiation of the foreign debt. I will preserve social peace by improving the people's standard of living. I will be tolerant of the criticism of the opposition. I am a factor of confidence for the country. This is demonstrated by the drop in the price of the dollar. I will hold direct dialogues with all sectors. I will promote the intensive use of technology which will encourage the creation of jobs. The university will have to rationalize the use of its economic resources. I will respect the efficient public employees of the current administration. I believe I know the best talents in the country but we have yet to consider names for the cabinet.

GUYANA

UNION LEADERS ATTEND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

FL071650 Bridgetown CANA in English 1500 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 5 (CANA) -- The Guyana Mine Workers Union (GMW), bargaining agent for about 6,000 workers in the vital bauxite industry here, is to be represented at the 45th Congress of Miners International Federation to be held in Luxembourg from May 20 to 25, the union said here. The union's representative will be President Stephen Lewis. This will be the first time it will be represented at the congress since becoming an affiliate last year. General-secretary of the GMW Christopher James is currently attending an international trade union peace conference in Nicaragua sponsored by the National Trade Union Coordinating Committee of Nicaragua. President of the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Employees (NAACIE) Hanoman Mohabir and Vice President of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) Jankie Persaud are also attending. The conference brings together trade unionists from around the world to review areas of growing tension which threaten world peace. Central America, the Middle East, the arms race, and the European missile crisis will be among the areas to be examined, the union said.